

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Disarming trends
As the Geneva talks open, Nicholas Ashford explains the arguments that will take place

Clues to killer
New handwriting evidence pinpoints Jack the Ripper

Milan model
Suzy Menkes reports on the latest Italian fashion line

Far pavilions
John Woodcock describes the decline of cricket in Australia

Portfolio Two share £40,000

Saturday's £40,000 prize in the Times Portfolio weekly competition was shared by two winners. Mr Malcolm Seymour, of Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, and Mr Peter Harris, of Lower Eastern Green Lane, Coventry. The prize had been doubled because there was no winner last week.

The £2,000 daily prize was shared by Mr Hubert Batchelor, of Bucks Hill, Kings Langley, Herts, and Mr William Hubbard, of Llandough, Penarth, South Glamorgan.

Another £2,000 can be won today. Portfolio list, page 16; rules and how to play, information service, back-page.

Inquiry call on private use of NHS

An urgent government investigation into allegations of fraud in the operation of private medicine within the National Health Service, has been demanded by Mr Michael Meacher, the Opposition spokesman on health.

He has calculated that the cost to the NHS since 1980 runs into tens of millions of pounds. Audit reports, page 3

Talks on Ronan Point demolition

Newham council will seek government backing for its plan to demolish Ronan Point and five other tower blocks, in spite of a report which said Ronan Point could be repaired.

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Parkinson reply

Mr Cecil Parkinson, criticized by Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, on Saturday for his attempt to prevent distribution of the satirical magazine, Private Eye, gives reasons for his High Court injunction.

Letters, page 13

Royal holiday

The Prince and Princess of Wales are taking a short holiday in Jordan. They took up the offer of a long-standing invitation from King Hussein and left Britain yesterday.

Tunnel gloom

Annual debt repayments of £30 million threaten to undermine the economic benefits of the world's longest undersea tunnel opened yesterday in Japan.

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MP's trade links

A register of MPs' business interests and consultancies shows there has been a 50 per cent increase in the past year.

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Three for Rush

Ian Rush scored three goals when Liverpool beat Barnsley 4-0 to reach the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

Page 20

Leader page 13

Letters: BBC finances from Mr R. Sheldon, MP and Mr G. Buck, on National Theatre funding from Sir Peter Hall

Leading articles: UN and Africa, Sino-Soviet relations, Capital transfer tax Features, pages 10-12

How Lawson can help the family: Russia's classroom cannon fodder: Anne Sofer in the GLC trenches: Spectrum: the film they could not kill: Monday Page: the new homeless

Obituary, page 14

Sir Charles Connell, Dr Peter Gay, Harry Carterick

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Ten Israelis killed in suicide attack on troop carrier

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A sweeping review of measures to prevent Israeli troop convoys from suicide attacks is expected to follow yesterday's massive bomb which killed at least 10 Israeli soldiers and injured many others less than two miles from the northern Galilee town of Metulla.

The seriousness of the attack is also thought likely to further increase the clamour inside Israel for the withdrawal from Lebanon to be drastically speeded up. This call is known to have support among some senior army officers.

According to Metulla residents contacted by telephone, the blast took place when a vehicle packed with explosives was driven head-on into a large Israeli troop-carrying truck known as a "safari". Several hours later the army spokesman was still unable to give official confirmation because all the families of the dead had not yet been contacted.

The blast took place in a border region of occupied Lebanon generally regarded by Israel as the least dangerous and where the recent severe restrictions on Lebanese residents - such as an order that at least three people must be inside any vehicle on the road - had not so far been imposed.

When I drove down the road with an Israeli armed escort last Thursday, the soldiers appeared much more relaxed than those serving in the coastal region where most violence has taken place in recent weeks.

The location and severity of the attack, which broke windows in Metulla, sent shock waves through Israel's northern towns and settlements. These have recently been repeatedly threatened with attacks by Shia Muslim leaders vowing to react



Israel's bloody and increasing violent pullout from Lebanon, Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, had been condemning the recent car bomb attacks at a Cabinet meeting and once again denying flatly that Israel had any involvement in the Beirut blast.

Yesterday's suicide attack may seem by foreign observers as a further serious escalation in the guerrilla war which is now being waged in southern Lebanon and threatening to spill over the border.

A similar type of attack was made against an Israeli convoy a month ago near the coastal town of Tyre and more are expected to follow in the months before Israel's final withdrawal, provisionally scheduled for some time in September.

In political circles, there was speculation that further restrictions on vehicles travelling on the roads of southern Lebanon may now be imposed by Israel. But it was acknowledged that such restrictions tend only to reinforce hostility among the local population and even alienate those inhabitants, mostly Christians, who have some sympathy for Israel.

Mr Reuven Weinberg, manager of a Metulla hotel, told The Times: "This attack has frightened everyone living in the town very much. It's a reminder that we are soon going to have to face a different sort of life again when attacks against us will once more force us down into the shelters."

Mr Weinberg added: "It seems that the driver of the vehicle did not care who he was killing. He just drove straight into the truck in which I estimate about 30 Israelis were travelling. According to people on the spot, the scene of the blast was very terrible indeed."

The attack, which took place in broad daylight at about 2 pm, followed a bloody weekend in which there had been more than 14 other attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon in which five soldiers were injured.

Before news of the blast both Mr Peres and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, had stated separately that the crackdown against the Shia Muslim villages in southern Lebanon would continue.

● SIDON: Israeli helicopters machine-gunned civilians crossing the Israeli front line along side-roads north of Tyre yesterday, wounding two, security sources said (Reuters reports).

Israelis retreat, page 5



An Israeli soldier injured in the attack is wheeled into a Tel Aviv hospital for an operation.

Chancellor to boost jobs in Budget

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

A jobs package, with the emphasis on reversing the rising trend of unemployment, will be the theme of Mr Nigel Lawson's Budget next week.

The Chancellor has rejected City calls for an austerity Budget to help bolster the pound. Instead, the financial targets announced next week will be broadly in line with the existing medium-term financial strategy.

Although the Government remains convinced that the route to lower unemployment is via low inflation and reduction of interest rates, recent events have underlined the urgency of action on jobs.

Lloyds Bank, in its international financial outlook published today, predicts a Budget-time cut in interest rates, with base rates likely to fall from 14 per cent to about 12.5 per cent. This would head off the threatened rise in mortgage rates by the building societies when they meet in March 21, but it would leave base rates a damaging three points above their level at the end of last year.

The expected jobs package will combine amendments to National Insurance arrangements with an extension of the community programme and a rise in income tax thresholds and allowances.

National Insurance contributions may be waived for young workers or for those taken on from the ranks of the long-term unemployed. Alternatively, an across-the-board reduction in employers' National Insurance contributions of 1 per cent could be announced.

Some Conservative backbench MPs, who have urged the Chancellor to announce a general reduction in NI contributions, believe the latter route will be followed.

Raising of tax thresholds and allowances, probably by 5 to 7 percentage points more than needed to compensate for inflation, is also expected in line with Conservative promises and to boost incentives and ameliorate the so-called employment trap. This exists at the lower end of the income scale, when the tax system at present acts as a disincentive for the unemployed considering taking a low-paid job.

● The Institute of Alcohol Studies has urged the Chancellor to reverse last year's 18p a bottle cut in duty on wine. It says that wine drinking rose sharply last year, while beer and whiskey consumption both fell.

Rates outlook, page 17

MacGregor insists on tough line

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, yesterday disclosed the guidelines sent to area managers on the reemployment of miners dismissed during the strike. He emphasized that the board would not take back those convicted of deliberate sabotage or violence against fellow workers, the police or the public.

He was speaking on the eve of what is expected to be an almost complete return to work after decisions by Kent and Scottish miners to end the dispute. Militants in Kent will try to undermine a return to normal working "but board officials expect few difficulties."

Mr MacGregor said the board had to keep faith with miners who worked during the strike. "One has to be tough with people who go out of their way to break the law of the land, particularly in doing violence to their fellow citizens. We have to see that there are no rewards for that," he said.

Senior board officials maintained their determination yesterday not to have formal negotiations with the National Union of Mineworkers until a full return to normality.

Mr MacGregor's definition of serious acts of violence will be interpreted by local managers, but last night there appeared to be scope for reinstating several hundred of the 677 miners still dismissed.

A Harris opinion poll in The Observer yesterday showed that 72 per cent of those interviewed thought the board ought to grant an amnesty to all except miners convicted of violence.

Mr MacGregor, speaking on BBC radio's *World This Week* programme said the finding supported the board's policy.

A MORI poll, conducted for Channel 4's *Labour World* programme, indicated that 57 per cent of NUIM members would back Mr Arthur Scargill in any election for the union presidency. Working miners want to force Mr Scargill to stand for reelection under last year's Trade Union Act.

Last week the coal board produced almost 40 per cent of its pre-strike weekly production of two million tonnes and said that it would be "some time" before normal production levels are reached.

Despite overtime being worked in Nottinghamshire at the weekend for the first time since October 1983, the overtime ban held firm in Lancashire where miners refused to sanction weekend working. The board said that three pits, Bickershaw and Parsonage, near Leigh, and Golbourne, near Wigan, will not produce coal today or tomorrow while maintenance is carried out.

● The Yorkshire area council of Nacods, the pit deputies' union, voted at the weekend to urge union's national conference in June to demand Mr MacGregor's dismissal.

MPs' plea, steel peril, page 2

Karamalis quits over plan to cut his powers

From Mario Modiano, Athens

President Constantine Karamalis of Greece resigned last night two months before his five-year term expired in protest over Greek Government plans for constitutional reform.

In a letter to Parliament he said he was relinquishing his presidential duties "in the light of developments in which I am unable to cooperate". Sources close to Mr Karamalis said the move was a protest against the "perilous new course" he believed the Government of Mr Andreas Papandreu was setting.

Mr Karamalis, who was 78 on Friday, announced his decision 24 hours after Mr Papandreu broke out of a pledge to support his reelection and unexpectedly set in motion constitutional reforms designed to emasculate the presidential powers.

Under the proposed reforms, most presidential prerogatives concerning the dissolution of Parliament, the holding of referendums, and addressing the nation directly, would be placed under Government control, along with the President's right to declare an emergency.

Mr Karamalis, who was the architect of the 1975 Greek Constitution, is known to believe that its checks and balances are a vital deterrent to any abuse of power by Government or President. In more than four years as President, he has never made use of his prerogatives.

Mr Papandreu confirmed in a letter to the outgoing President the impeccable manner in which Mr Karamalis had discharged his duties.

Papandreu plan, page 7

Star Wars teams show goodwill

From Nicholas Ashford, Geneva

American and Soviet negotiators arrived here this weekend preaching a similar message of peace and goodwill which masked the deep differences which divided the two superpowers as they prepared to embark on a major new round of arms talks.

Mr Max Kampelman and Mr Viktor Karpov, the leaders of the American and Soviet delegations, both stressed in their arrival statements that their shared objective was the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. They pledged themselves to approach their task in a "patient", "businesslike" and "constructive" manner.

However, both sides acknowledged that the three interlocking sets of talks, dealing with intermediate range (INF), strategic and space weapons, will be extremely difficult and protracted, perhaps lasting for several years.

First to arrive on Saturday was the American delegation. Apart from Mr Kampelman, who will also lead the American side in the space weapons talks, it included Mr John Tower, who will head the US delegation on strategic weapons, and Mr Maynard Gitman, the negotiator on INF weapons.

Mr Kampelman said the US wanted energetically to build a bridge to a future world - a world which will be at peace devoid of terror and free of the threat of nuclear destruction.

The three negotiators on the Soviet side were Mr Karpov, who will head the strategic weapons talks, Mr Yuri Kvitsinski (space weapons), and Mr Aleksei Obukhov (INF missiles). Mr Karpov said on arrival yesterday that the Soviet Union hoped the talks would "prevent an arms race in space and terminate it on earth."

President Reagan has given his negotiators wide latitude in talks on INF and strategic weapons, but not on space weapons, which are generally perceived as the most difficult of the three rounds of talks.



Healey says Nato could break up

Mr Denis Healey, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, yesterday said that the Nato alliance could break up if the United States insisted on pursuing the strategic defence initiative at the risk of losing disarmament agreement in Geneva.

(Anthony Bevins writes)

Mr Healey said in the Channel 4 *Face the Press* programme that if the so-called "Star Wars" research risked deep cuts in the nuclear stockpile, then Europe should be prepared to stage "an almighty row" with the Americans.

Mr Healey wanted to get back to constructive dialogue with the Americans

What the Church's 'rudest bishop' said to his flock

By Alan Hamilton

Religious literature will be enriched this weekend by the publication of the collected barbs, aphorisms and ripostes of a retired bishop once described as the rudest man in the Church of England.

The Rt Rev Douglas Feaver, who until last year was bishop of Peterborough, has been authorized by Mr John Kelly, the diocesan information officer, in a book to raise funds for the Church of England Children's Society.

Both author and anthologist swore to *The Times* with perfect politeness yesterday that the publication of well over 100 choice Feaverisms had engendered no ill-will, as most of them had been delivered in the first instance with tongue firmly in cheek.

Of a fellow bishop: "He'd believe anything provided it's not in Holy Scripture."

Of a fellow member of the House of Lords: "His mouth is for export and his head has no entrance."

To an MP who approached him with outstretched hand: "I never shake hands with members of the Lower House."

Of women members of the general synod: "They have seething bosoms, but nothing above."

Of the general synod: "I wonder when I sit there why the Church should be asked for money to pay to keep this cuckoo going."

Of a proffered cup of very weak China tea: "It must have been invented by the SDP."

Of any unfulfilled ambitions upon retirement: "To bury a few I haven't managed yet."

To a woman he had just confirmed, indicating her husband: "Where did you find him - in a blackout?"

The bishop, interrupted a lunch of steak and kidney pie yesterday, reminded *The Times* that the former Dean of Westminster, who had labelled him the Church's rudest man, had gone on to say: "He doesn't know it and he doesn't mean it."

The bishop added: "I would not dream of stopping this book; my family think it is great fun. Of course, all my remarks have been taken out of context."

Purple Feaver (published by John Kelly, 53 Ridgeway, Weston Favell, Northampton; £1.10)

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Government likely to face renewed pressure for closure of steel works

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The prospect of renewed pressure to close more capacity in Britain's state-owned steel industry now looms large after the end of the miners' strike, with the large Ravenscraig steel works in Scotland once again under threat.

Top management in the steel industry, who have used ingenious measures to keep the mills operating during the strike, are now expecting the Government to apply itself urgently to the industry's difficulties and to "bite the bullet" over the closures issue.

After the electricity supply industry, steel has been the worst financial casualty of the strike with the attendant blacking by railmen of the iron ore and coal deliveries to the mills.

But with the use of fleets of lorries, and the highly-expensive chartering of small ships to transport raw materials to ports close to the steel works, the impact on output has been minimized.

The cost, however, has been very high. Scunthorpe mill alone has been losing £1.25 million a week and the total

additional cost of the strike to the British Steel Corporation could rise to nearly £200 million.

That extra cost, the BSC says, is the Government's problem. What it wants now is a speedy decision on the options for the future of the industry presented to the Department of Trade and Industry by Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of BSC, last spring. One of those options was the closure of one of the five big integrated steel works and the loss of up to 15,000 jobs.

But the issue is far from simple. Overlaying the BSC's domestic troubles is the pan-European steel crisis regime which involves a mixture of voluntary and mandatory minimum price levels and production quotas, the eventual phasing out of all state aids to steel, and the impact of the BSC's raw materials are priced in US dollars.

As the miners' strike progressed, and the steel mills continued to operate, the political difficulty of closing

more mills in the face of the "loyalty" of the steel workers was said to be growing. Mr Bill Sims, outgoing general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) gave a warning that his members would not be "sacrificial lambs" and any unofficial support for the NUM evaporated.

His successor, the equally moderate Mr Roy Evans, said last month: "If we are to have stability, we need industrial peace, and it is essential that we all observe the procedures and agreements honourably concluded."

The corporation is now keen on having a new set of objectives, the central one being to make a decent profit, agreed by the Government without a detailed and restricting corporate plan.

Recent results show that without the effect of the strike, the BSC would be in the black at the pre-interest level, a remarkable achievement for an industry almost destroyed by recession and lack of competitiveness only a few years ago.



The prime suspect in the Harrods bombing (right) photographed with two IRA terrorists in Northampton

Special Branch head leads terror hunt

The head of the Special Branch is poised to take control of Scotland Yard's fight against terrorism after disclosures that the prime suspect in the IRA bombing of Harrods store in London escaped during an undercover police operation.

A decision is expected soon on an internal report which recommends that the anti-terrorist squad should be placed under the control of Mr Colin Herrett, deputy assistant commissioner, who is also in

charge of the Special Branch. Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday that Mr John Dellow, assistant commissioner (crime), was considering the proposal which was unrelated to the wide-ranging reorganization of policing in London.

The move comes after reports of a dispute between the two over an incident in January

last year in which the man police most want to question about the Harrods bomb got away after being photographed by detectives at Northampton railway station. The Harrods bombing killed six people.

Anti-terrorist squad officers later claimed that they had not been told about the surveillance operation mounted by the Special Branch.

Police know the identity of the bearded "third man" in the picture they took at the railway

station but are refusing to identify him publicly. He was seen with Paul Kavanagh and Natalino Vella, who received long jail sentences last week for their parts in the London bombing campaign by the IRA in 1981.

Scotland Yard last night denied that there was a dispute over the failure of the Northampton operation but there are indications that relations between the two units have been strained.

The Times shows big gains in readership

By Robin Young

The latest authoritative readership figures published by the Joint Industry Committee for National Readership Surveys (Jicnars), show *The Times* making substantial gains, while other quality daily newspapers suffer considerable losses.

The National Readership Survey 1984 shows that in the second half of last year, *The Times* achieved an average increase of 120,000 readers an issue over the first half figures, while readership of *The Guardian* declined by 203,000, that of the *Daily Telegraph* fell by 434,000, and *The Financial Times* lost 97,000 readers.

Among ABCI social groups, the middle classes in managerial, administrative, or professional occupations, the advance by *The Times* was in even more marked contrast to the results achieved by the paper's competitors. While *The Times* attracted another 87,000 ABCI readers in the second half of last year, the *Daily Telegraph* lost 477,000. *The Guardian* lost 132,000, and *The Financial Times* lost 104,000.

The increased readership of *The Times* reflects the circulation gains that the newspaper has achieved since the middle of last year.

The National Readership Survey, which is accepted by the press and advertising industries as the definitive study of the nation's reading habits, is based on 27,541 interviews last year among a representative sample of the population aged 15 and over.

READERSHIP CHANGES, FIRST HALF TO SECOND HALF, 1984

	Overall	ABCI
<i>The Times</i>	+120,000	+87,000
<i>The Guardian</i>	-203,000	-132,000
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	-434,000	-477,000
<i>The Financial Times</i>	-97,000	-104,000

Source: National Readership Survey (Jicnars) 1984.

London to get new evening newspaper

A new evening newspaper, *The Post*, will be launched in London in 1985 by News International.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, said that *The Post's* publication may be extended at a later date to 24 hours, giving it a combined role of both a London evening newspaper and a national morning in the rest of the country.

The paper will be printed at the huge new News International plant at Tower Hamlets in London.

The editorial director and co-ordinator of the project is Mr Charles Wilson, joint deputy editor of *The Times*, who will report to Mr Bruce Matthews, managing director of News International.

Other papers in the News International group include *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, the *Sun* and the *News of the World*.

More MPs become consultants

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

There has been a 50 per cent increase in business and other consultancies held by MPs in the past year, according to the latest *Register of Members' Interests*.

The register, expected to be published this month, shows that another 23 MPs have taken on the extra work involved in being consultants and advisers to outside interests to supplement their basic £16,904 salary.

Altogether, the 137 consultant MPs have registered 285 consultancies, an increase of 110 over the past 12 months.

The biggest increase is accounted for by Mr Peter Fry, Conservative MP for Wellingborough, who last year declared a directorship of Political Research and Communications International. In the latest register, Mr Fry disclosed that his clients in PRCI include Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), Airbus Industries, National Bus Company, Pye Telecom, and Thames Water.

In the last year Mr Fry has also become a director of a company called CBA Public Affairs, whose clients include Cinzano (UK) Ltd, and Hewlett Packard Ltd. Mr Fry lists a total of 20 clients in all.

Mr John Watts, Conservative MP for Slough, who has registered consultancies with Rank Hovis McDougall and Price Waterhouse in the past year, said that neither client had asked him to raise an issue in the Commons, but he fed them with "parliamentary angles" which might interest or affect them.

New consultancies registered include those of Sir Humphrey Atkins, the former Conservative minister, who joins Mr Roy Mason, the former Labour minister, as consultant to Imperial Tobacco; Sir William Clark, chairman of the Tory-backed Finance Committee, who has become consultant to Texaco; Sir Anthony Grant, Conservative MP for Cambridgeshire South West, consultant to Barclays Bank; Mr Andrew Mackay, Conservative MP for Berkshire East, consultant to Morgan Grenfell; Sir John Page, Conservative MP for Harrow West, consultant to Tarmac Group; Sir Michael Shaw, Conservative MP for Scarborough, consultant to Costain Group; Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, adviser to Globuk Tankers; Mr George Walden, Conservative MP for Buckingham, consultant to Samuel Montagu, and Mr Bowen Wells, Conservative MP for Hertford and Stortford, consultant to Geest Industries.

Ultimatum as Post Office talks resume

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Critical productivity talks between the Post Office and union officials re-open tomorrow, against a background of management threats to impose new working practices over the heads of the unions in three weeks time if no agreement has been reached.

Delegates to a special conference of the Union of Communication Workers (UCW) have refused to give their leaders a free hand in the new round of talks.

The main sticking point will be the Post Office's demand that it should be allowed to use 20,000 part-time workers instead of the present 8,500, a ceiling figure agreed with the union.

Mr Alan Tuffin, the UCW's general secretary, said last night: "I can state categorically that they are not going to get an agreement on the part-time workers, and if they say they are going ahead with it, come what may, then I think we are heading for serious trouble."

MPs to argue for dismissed miners

From Ronald Faux, Perth

Mr Donald Dewar, shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, is to lead a delegation of Scottish Labour MPs to Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, to demand an independent review of the Scottish coal industry on behalf of the 180 Scottish miners dismissed during the coal strike.

Speaking at the close of the Labour Party's Scottish conference in Perth, which was dominated by the aftermath of the strike, Mr Dewar said the delegation would emphasize to Mr MacGregor the benefits of a sensible, flexible policy in Scotland. It would be a terrible mistake to have arbitrary dismissals for minor offences when other parts of the country were taking a different attitude.

Mr Dewar told the conference that men were being bundled out of their careers for unsupportable reasons. It would be no more common justice to have an independent review. Scotland had suffered the highest percentage of workers dismissed during the strike and he was outraged by the way the men had been doubly penalized.

The conference reflected a strong will to close the divisions between the miners and the Labour Party, although miners' delegates remained clearly dissatisfied.

Mr Gordon Craig, division officer of the white collar union, ASTMS, and a member of the Scottish Labour Party executive, told the party conference in Perth that Scotland was suffering from a drug epidemic.

There were 6,000 drug addicts in Scotland, 3,000 of them in Glasgow, and the problem was growing at 40 per cent a year.

The conference agreed to set up a working party to investigate the problem and called for a programme to combat drug abuse. Mr Craig said the price

of hard drugs had dropped dramatically, although addicts needed £40 a day to satisfy their habit. Seventy per cent of burglaries in parts of Edinburgh were committed by drug addicts.

Although the Government had claimed there was no link between joblessness and drug abuse, Mr Craig said: "Perhaps it is misguided to put all the blame for drugs on to unemployment and deprivation, but it is simply wrong and mischievous."

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$29; Belgium £8 50; Canada \$2 75; Denmark 1,000 kr; France 1,000 fr; Germany 1,000 DM; Greece 1,000 dr; Hong Kong \$10; India 1,000 rupee; Italy 1,000 lire; Japan 1,000 yen; Korea 1,000 won; Luxembourg 1,000 franc; Malaysia 1,000 ringgit; Mexico 1,000 pesos; New Zealand 1,000 dollars; Norway 1,000 kroner; Portugal 1,000 escudo; Singapore 1,000 dollars; South Africa 1,000 rand; Sweden 1,000 krona; Switzerland 1,000 franc; Taiwan 1,000 dollars; Thailand 1,000 baht; United Kingdom 1,000 pounds; USA \$1 75; Yugoslavia 1,000 dinars.

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Pessimism over ending Ulster deadlock

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Government is deeply pessimistic about the chances of breaking the political deadlock in Northern Ireland and reaching agreement on a measure of devolved government in the province.

Although Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is determined to get inter-party talks started once the local government elections in May are over, he is not hopeful about their outcome.

In his latest initiative he has hinted at using an intermediary to help break the stalemate, but

apart from the difficulty of finding someone acceptable to all sides, Mr Hurd remains unconvinced about the willingness to compromise among the province's political leaders.

Mr Hurd has been pursuing a "twin track" approach to the north's problems, searching for an internal solution and offering the republic's government a consultative role in the province's affairs. Officials are pleased Mr Hurd's frequent references to Dublin's legitimate interest in the province,

and the need for it to be represented in a better way, has not produced uproar in the Unionist community.

The Government is understood to believe that agreement with Dr Garret Fitzgerald's government may be possible, and would like the present round of discussions to be concluded within the next five months.

Mr Hurd does not favour the republic opening diplomatic offices in Belfast for fear that a building would provide an easy focus for "loyalists", either to

attack or demonstrate outside. He also recognizes, along with leading unionists, that during such a crisis the republic would come under intense political pressure to withdraw diplomatic representatives.

But the hoped-for developments on the Anglo-Irish front are not matched internally within the north where ministers are doubtful whether Unionists and Nationalists are willing to reach agreement on a new system of partnership government.

Radar mine hunt in Falklands

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Trials are being carried out in the Falkland Islands of a new method, using radar, for detecting mines left behind by the Argentines after their invasion in 1982.

Mine clearance was halted more than two years ago because there was no completely safe method of detecting mines made almost entirely of plastic. There remain more than 100 minefields, many very small, but collectively holding thousands of mines, and these have been fenced off.

Ministers have said that mine clearance will not be resumed until a completely safe and effective method of detection has been found.

Mines containing a quantity of metal can be located by conventional means, but among the various kinds used by the Argentines are anti-personnel and anti-tank mines containing very little metal and the Ministry of Defence has been searching for a method of detecting these.

About 40 companies were invited to find an answer and more than half of them put forward ideas. Members of the public also advanced suggestions.

Work is continuing on two possible solutions, one based on detecting variations in the earth's magnetic field, and the

other using radar, on which work is more advanced.

The radar system, being tested in the Falklands involves transmitting a short range radar pulse into the ground and having the signals analysed by computer. The difficulty is that the radar will locate practically everything in the ground and it is necessary to build up a large memory bank so that the computer can identify a specific signal which indicates the presence of a mine.

The computer will have to be able to work at high speeds, so that it can in milliseconds analyse the signals as the radar transmitter is pushed forward at a slow walking pace.

It is understood that this system has been successful in trials in Britain, but it has been tried in the peaty moorland conditions of the Falklands with its high water table.

The results of the trial will be assessed during the spring and summer.

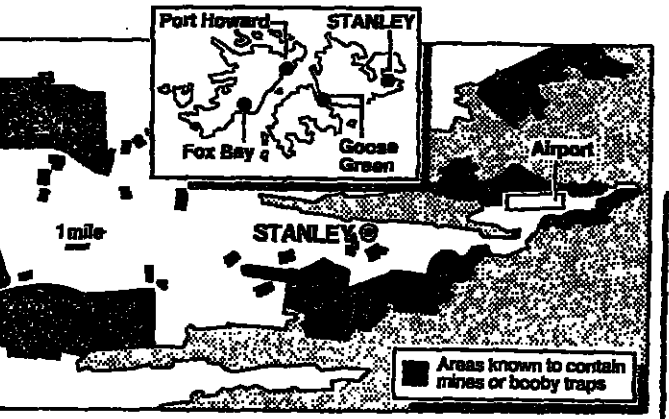
Powell attacks policy of ethnic checks

Mr Enoch Powell, the Ulster Official Unionist MP, launched a strong attack on government policy of ethnic monitoring at the weekend (Anthony Bevins writes).

He told the Cambridge University Conservative Association: "How the ghost of Hitler must wriggle with delight at watching Her Majesty's Government counting members of the white race."

Mr Powell also criticized an article in *The Times* by Mr Roger Scruton, who last week urged the Conservative Party to select black and Asian candidates for election to the Commons.

Mr Powell said that where numbers are political power, as supremely in Parliament, the numbers game of ethnic monitoring and quotas becomes a matter of life-and-death that will disturb even British complacency.



The law in Scotland:1

England to adopt the fiscal's role

This week MPs debate setting up a prosecution service for England and Wales, independent of the police. Such a system has worked in Scotland for more than a century. In the first of three articles, FRANCES GIBB, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at its organization.

Some 47 per cent of defendants pleading not guilty in the crown court and 50 per cent in magistrates' courts are now acquitted. The commonest cause of the failure of the prosecution to offer sufficient evidence.

A crown prosecution service is new for England and Wales, but it has existed in Scotland for at least 100 years. The public prosecutor there is the procurator fiscal.

The fiscal was originally a servant of the sheriff, (now a judge in the sheriff court), employed to collect taxes and fines. He started prosecuting from about 1700 on the sheriff's behalf and by the mid-nineteenth century he had taken over the sheriff's prosecuting duties. He then gradually became directly responsible to the Lord Advocate, Scotland's equivalent of the Attorney General.

The Scottish prosecution system is centralized under the Lord Advocate and his Edinburgh-based administrative department, the Crown Office. Its head is the Crown Agent, a civil service post like the Director of Public Prosecutions, but with no authority for instituting proceedings himself.

The Scottish prosecution

service thus is directly accountable to Parliament through the Lord Advocate, whereas the English service will be headed by the DPP who will be under the Attorney General's superintendence but will have power to institute proceedings. The Attorney General will not therefore be held responsible for every single decision of the crown prosecutors, although he will be accountable to Parliament for the overall conduct of the service.

The Lord Advocate's team includes another minister, the Solicitor General for Scotland, and in the Crown office a team of 12 advocate deputies, known as crown counsel, all on secondment, usually for three years, from the Scottish bar. They act only for the Lord Advocate in criminal proceedings but can maintain their civil practice.

Under the crown agent there are 47 fiscals, all Civil Servants who are legally qualified; usually solicitors. They are under seven regional fiscals, one for each region of the sheriff court service. The English prosecution service will roughly follow the same lines.

The fiscals prosecute the bulk of crime. They handle all cases liable for up to two years' imprisonment which are processed through the district courts (like magistrates' courts) and the sheriff courts, the latter standing between the English crown and magistrates' courts with trials either summary or by jury. Crimes liable to more than two years' imprisonment go to the High Court, where crown counsel conduct the prosecutions.

The fiscals run their own district offices, which vary from a vast administrative machine such as in Glasgow, with 57 prosecuting staff (assistant and deputy fiscals) to a tiny office where the fiscal and a typist are the sole staff, such as Rothbury.

Last year Glasgow handled 72,000 cases. The office is divided into teams dealing with district courts, sheriff courts and examination of witnesses and an "input" team to receive all reports from police or other agencies. Including administrative and support staff, about 280 people work in the office.

Mr Barry Heywood, now assistant procurator fiscal at Glasgow, was previously the fiscal at Wick. The jobs are very different. "The stigma of the unsuccessful prosecution for a relatively minor offence in a small community is the same as for a larger offence elsewhere. That is one reason for optimum preparation of the case."

Much of his Glasgow work is administrative, but at Wick he would do all of a fiscal's work: advocacy, looking at police reports and deciding what to mark "no proceedings", exam-

ination of witnesses for trial, appearing in summary trials and investigating sudden deaths.

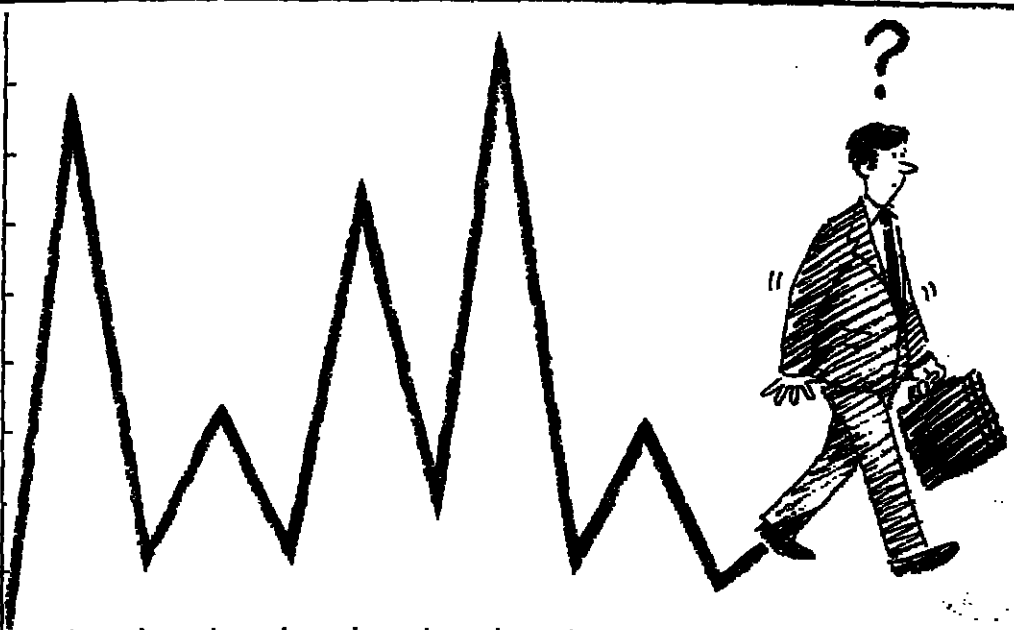
There are 240 legal staff in the Scottish fiscal service. The English prosecution service is planned to grow from its present 1,000 lawyers to about 1,400. From the Scottish experience, it is clear that good pay will be needed to draw candidates from private practice. In Scotland, little use is made of independent lawyers. But when pressed, the service will call upon young advocates (barristers); solicitors are less happy to do a day in court for £50 when they could earn £200 on legal aid.

Nor is the fiscal service attracting candidates as easily as it did. In spite of the attractions for those who enjoy considerable court work without the onus of running a practice, the past two or three years have been more difficult for recruitment, according to the Crown Office, because of the salaries compared with private earnings and because the staff, below top fiscal level, are liable to have to move anywhere.

Tomorrow: How the system works.

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NHS is losing money on private patients because of abuses, audits show

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Audit reports showing abuses, widespread inefficiency, and inadequate controls in collecting money due to the National Health Service, from private patients, have been effectively suppressed by health minister. Less than half of the 37 health authorities involved have released copies of the reports.

The audits show examples of consultants treating patients privately but failing to pass on fees due to the NHS, private patients not being identified properly, leading to failure to charge enough or at all, and to some examples of apparent fraud.

The audits were carried out after allegations that £100,000 had gone missing at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. Ministers asked by MPs to publish the reports have declined to do so, saying it is a matter for each health authority.

A request from Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's chief social services spokesman, to all the authorities for copies led to 12 refusing to do so on the grounds that they were "confidential", five did not reply, and two said the reports were "incomplete".

Analysis of the 17 reports available shows evidence of abuse and possible fraud in seven authorities. Mr Meacher said yesterday.

Fourteen authorities had failed to identify all private patients, leading to loss of income for treatment or use of NHS equipment. Six authorities failed to collect all or some of the money due from the fees consultants charged for private treatment, and two authorities failed to charge private hospitals for use of NHS equipment.

In Wakefield, a consultant manufactured an NHS number for a private patient, and in Darlington a secretary destroyed 27 forms showing that private patients owed money to the NHS. In South Tees, auditors found "substantial losses" from the failure by consultants to identify private patients who were treated with NHS facilities.

Losses range from a few thousand pounds to more than £17,000, but in many cases auditors said that it was impossible to calculate the true loss because private patients' records were inadequate. In nine authorities—Sheffield, Wakefield, Bloomsbury, North-East Essex, Darlington, Coventry, Nottingham, South Tees, and Oxfordshire, auditors said that true losses could not be calculated because of failure to adequately monitor private patients.

Mr Meacher said the reports showed that "the NHS has been unable to control the greed of some of those involved in private practice, and that losses to the NHS since 1980 must run into tens of millions of pounds. This material must call into doubt whether private medicine can ever be properly regulated within the NHS".

Ministers have asked regional health authorities to tighten procedures for monitoring and charging private patients, and to report back.

The day Mr Duncan tried to drive across the sea to Ireland



Mr Peter Duncan, the action man on the *Blue Peter* television programme, trying to drive a Volkswagen Beetle across the Irish Sea on Saturday. In spite of running repairs to the generator on the 25-mile journey from Portpatrick, Wigtownshire, to Bangor in Northern Ireland the converted car broke down and was taken in tow by an escort boat. The car was fitted with a propeller and buoyancy aids (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

BP shops may sell canned beer

British Petroleum is planning to develop about 100 convenience stores at its petrol-filling stations, stocking between 1,500 and 2,000 items, and it wants operators to apply to the local magistrates for alcohol licences to sell canned beer and wine packs. However, in many parts of the country magistrates have rejected such applications.

Shell, with about 3,000 garages, says that it will leave decisions on selling alcohol to the individual outlet but does not believe that motorists would abuse the opportunity of stocking up with drink at the same time as petrol. Texaco, with 1,600 outlets, says it has no such plans.

George Cross to be sold

Mr Dean Willets, whose father was awarded the George Cross for sacrificing his life to save four people from a terrorist bomb, is to sell the medal and give the money to his mother.

Sergeant Michael Willets of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was killed at a Belfast police station in 1971 while shielding two children and two adults from a bomb dumped at the station.

Corporal tells of wait for rescue

Lieutenant-Commander Clive Waghorn, the injured polar explorer, was "very lucky" to have been rescued so soon, his companion, Lance-corporal Kerry Gill, said yesterday.

Corporal Gill, aged 22, said he and commander Waghorn, aged 36, had feared it might be two weeks before they could be rescued from Bransford Island in the Antarctic. However, help arrived after five days.

Commander Waghorn, a member of a joint services expedition, broke his leg when he fell into a crevasse. He and Corporal Gill were yesterday on board the support ship *Olva*, heading for the Falkland Islands.

The two men had spent the five days talking about how they would be rescued, Corporal Gill said in a BBC radio interview.

Separate schools for blacks unlikely

The idea of separate schools within the state system for black pupils is expected to be rejected in the Swann report, to be published this week.

It is also expected to confirm that West Indians and Bangladeshis are doing less well at school than white Britons and most other Asians.

Direct racial discrimination and social deprivation contribute to the under-achievement, while IQ is not a significant factor.

The report contains 70 recommendations, and its 800 pages represent five years of study into the education of children from ethnic minority groups in England.

The Swann committee has found it difficult to explain why most Asians do better than West Indians.

It is thought to suggest that the Asian tendency to keep a low profile may bring success in

Bishop calls migrant laws unjust

Immigration laws that divide families are "un-Christian and unjust", Bishop Hugh Montefiore of Birmingham said yesterday at the launching of a new national campaign that will include lobbying MPs and demonstrations at airports and seaports. (Pat Healy writes).

The campaign, mounted because of the growing number of refusals of Asian women and children seeking to join men settled in Britain, attracted 250 people to a conference in Birmingham yesterday from Yorkshire, Lancashire, London and the West Midlands. They represented an estimated 17,000 families around whom local "divided families campaigns" has sprung up in recent months.

Society's divisions an outrage, Runcie says

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, spoke about his "sense of outrage" at the divisions in society when he visited Newcastle upon Tyne at the weekend.

The poverty, population loss, large scale and long-term unemployment, and de-industrialization of that city was "a microcosm of much of Britain as a whole", he said.

Only 17 per cent of Newcastle schoolchildren found jobs within four months of leaving school in 1983, compared with 75 per cent in 1975. "These dreadful figures speak for themselves, and, in many Tyneside families, not one but two generations now face permanent unemployment."

It led to a vicious circle of sub-standard housing, rising crime, declining morale, mindless violence and vandalism, adding up to a "huge weight of frustration which could be exploited by extremist groups". Addressing a conference on

Shortages blamed for baby deaths

By Nicholas Timmins

New-born babies are dying because of lack of equipment and trained staff in neonatal intensive care units, according to a survey to be published next month.

The survey, to which paediatricians from 160 of the 225 paediatric units in England replied, showed shortages of ventilators and trained staff. Ten per cent of paediatricians who replied to the survey, organized by the charity Bliss said babies could not always be given adequate care and could die as a result.

The survey confirms findings reported during the past three to four years by specialists in intensive care for the new-born. Professor Osmond Reynolds, director of Neonatal Intensive Care at University College Hospital, London, says that five to 10 babies a week are turned away from his unit where 10 of the 34 intensive care cots are not in use.

Airport hit

Edinburgh airport had to use standby power yesterday after a road contractor accidentally cut through two 33,000-volt cables. A South of Scotland Electricity Board spokesman said the airport and one other major industrial consumer were affected when the cables were dug up during road works on the outskirts of the city. Flights were not delayed.

Chief's chase

Mr Peter Wright, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, chased a thief whom he surprised rifling his home in Dore, Sheffield, at the weekend. The intruder, who had taken a wallet and £80 from a bedroom, was injured in the struggle but escaped.

Coach plunge

A group of schoolchildren—43 boys and three girls—narrowly escaped death yesterday when their coach ran out of control and plunged off a bridge into a river at Slane, co Meath. Their driver was badly hurt.

Social security cuts not needed, report says

There is no economic or demographic case for cutting social security and the costs of the system are not spiralling out of control, a report from the Child Poverty Action Group, published yesterday argues. (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

But there is a "crisis of confidence" in the social security system that is largely government-induced as it seeks to limit the system to the relief of poverty, forcing greater reliance on the means-tested part of the welfare state.

The report argues that in spite of fears that expenditure is soaring out of control and that

Re-issue of Private Eye without Parkinson story

Private Eye, the satirical magazine, is to print a second edition of the issue, withdrawn from circulation last week, after Mr Cecil Parkinson, the former Conservative Party chairman, had obtained an injunction halting distribution because of references to himself and Mrs Angela Mathew, his secretary (Robin Young writes).

The 100,000 copies, which go on sale on Wednesday, will have a blank space where the two paragraphs referring to Mr Parkinson and Mrs Mathew first appeared. There will also be a new cover featuring Mr Parkinson and Mrs Thatcher.

Private Eye printed 368,000 copies last week, of which 220,000 were distributed. W. H. Smith and John Menzies, the main wholesalers, did not put the issue on sale, but it seems likely that at least 75,000 copies reached readers before the High Court injunction took effect.

The magazine has said that it is preparing to defend a libel action being brought by Mr Parkinson, who resigned as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in 1983, after *Private Eye* had publicized his affair with Miss Sarah Keys, his previous secretary. Half the magazine's income is now reserved for legal costs.

Letters, page 13

Report highlights VDU health hazards

Users of computer display units (VDUs) are increasingly experiencing health problems caused by the bad design and positioning of their electronic equipment. Sore and tired eyes, back pains and headaches are becoming common-place among workers using the terminals.

The conclusions are contained in a report published today by Computer Union, the

Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex). The union's findings comes from a survey of its members in a variety of industries from The Wash to Poole in Dorset.

The Apex study shows that 64 per cent of the systems surveyed were blamed for causing headaches and 55 per cent of users complained about sore or tired eyes. Back ache due to badly designed furniture accounted for 52 per cent of the complaints.

The Apex study concludes:

- Architectural developments have not taken into account lighting requirements of the screen-based systems. Lighting is mostly either inadequate or too bright, and both of these can cause discomfort to users, such as headaches and eye fatigue.
- All computer equipment

Ministry to hold talks on faulty heart valves

The Department of Health is to hold further talks with the American manufacturers of a replacement heart valve that has led to the death of at least 13 British patients when metal fatigue caused the valve to break down (our Social Services Correspondent writes).

About 5,000 of the valves have been supplied to the British market by Shiley Laboratories, which manufactures the device in the United States. The department brought the failures to the attention of cardiac surgeons and cardiologists in 1983 and 1984 when the first deaths came to light.

Now the Food and Drug Administration has written to specialists in the United States, giving a warning that the valves are continuing to fail in spite of modifications made in 1982. A spokesman for the Department of Health said: "We will be holding discussions with the company to see whether any further action is necessary in this country."

No public warnings have been issued in Britain and the decision, not to do so, made last year, was criticized by the Patients Association and some surgeons. However, a DHSS spokesman said: "Patients are unlikely to know what type of heart valve they have fitted and we do not want to cause unnecessary concern. It is for doctors to check which patients have them fitted and to decide what action to take".

Oxford's chess players win fifth victory

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

After an up-and-down struggle in the annual Oxford and Cambridge universities chess match on Saturday at the RAC in Pall Mall, Oxford, the favourites, scored their fifth successive victory by 5-3.

An hour before the end Cambridge missed winning chances on boards 4, 6 and 7 and their second board even lost an ending which should have been won for him.

The play, though competitive, was patchy and not perhaps so good as last year.

The Lloyds Bank Trophy for the best game was won by Karl Bowden for Oxford and by Nicholas Iwell for Cambridge.

Individual results (the Oxford player is given first. Cambridge had white on odd numbered boards):

Board 1, Colin McNab (Queen's) 0, Nicholas Iwell (Magdalen) 1. First def. 59 moves. Board 2, Jonathan Levitt (Magdalen) 1, Andrew Dyson (Trinity) 0. QP Dutch def. 79. Board 3, John Hewksworth (Nuffield) ½, Stephen Bell (Emmanuel) ½. Catalan system. 43. Board 4, Peter Wells (Jesus) ½, David Walker (Trinity) ½. QP King's Ind def. 55. Board 5, Karl Bowden (Jesus) ½, Matthew Eke (Trinity) ½. Nimzoindian def. 99. Board 6, Garth Dickinson (Trinity Hall) ½, Anthony (Trinity Hall) ½. QP. 24. Board 7, Kenneth Shovel (Wadham) 1, David Lawson (Trinity) 0. Alekhine def. 82. Board 8, Anita Rakshit (St Hilda's) 1, Laura Cohen (Newnham) 0. Sicilian def. 27.

Dartington head enjoys his task

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The new headmaster of Dartington, the progressive school at the centre of a recent scandal, is a scholar-turned-mushroom-farmer who views the task of rebuilding the school with some relief.

Less courageous men might balk at the job. But Mr Brian Nicholson, a former research fellow in mathematical chemistry at Trinity College, Cambridge, who gave up academia for an "alternative" life in Cornwall, says: "There is an enormous feeling of potential and excitement in the air."

He is underfired by the crises which have led to bad publicity and the loss of substantial numbers of pupils. The trouble began in 1983, when Dr Lyn Blackshaw, the former headmaster, accused pupils of under-age sexual intercourse, drinking and drug-taking. He was later forced to resign after nude photographs of his wife Beth, were published in a national newspaper.

Mr Nicholson, whose experience as a schoolmaster is confined to five years teaching science at Brockwood Park, Hampshire, says his idea of education has nothing to do with permissiveness or authoritarianism.

"I am talking about a much quieter and more serious examination of what really



Mr Nicholson: "dialogue is the guiding principle".

constitutes a healthy and whole educational environment," he says. "The guiding principle is dialogue. It is not for one person to lay down principles for another. That pre-empt the learning quality of a relationship."

Once the relationships are sorted out, Mr Nicholson says, sensible questions about teaching can be asked. He has already begun. "Do you want to be free?" he asked a group of Dartington children. "Yes," they claimed.

"Are you prepared to pay the price?" he persisted. They found that question a great deal harder. "That is the sort of quality of dialogue we have got to start to generate," he said. He intends to apply it to smoking, which has been allowed in certain parts of the school for a long time.

He will be arguing with the students that it is far too shallow an argument to say that smoking should be allowed on the grounds of individual freedom. "Habit is a contradiction of freedom."

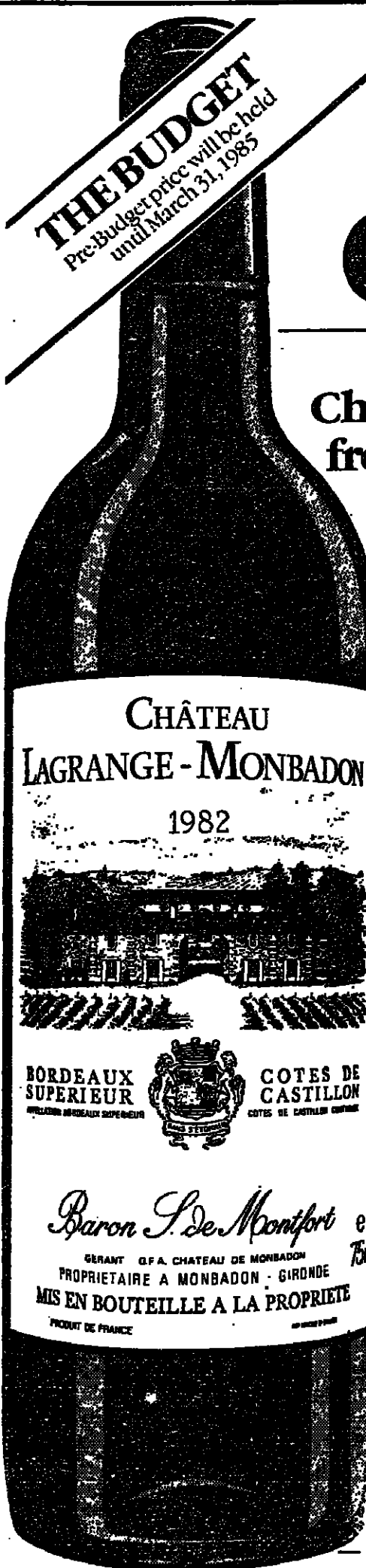
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Talks today at ministry on demolition of Ronan Point

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

The London borough of Newham plans to demolish Ronan Point and five other 22-storey tower blocks on the Freemasons' Road estate, in spite of last month's report from the Building Research Establishment that the block could be repaired structurally. Council officials are meeting the Department of the Environment today to try to win government support for their proposal. Mr Fred Jones, chairman of housing at Newham, wants the block to be dismantled scientifically so that the full extent of its faults may be examined and the lessons learned by other councils with similar blocks. Woodrow Anglian (TWA) blocks of similar design. Building Design Partnership, the council's independent consultants, estimate essential repairs to the block would cost £28,600 a flat, or £52,000 a flat for "desirable" work. The council intends to replace the blocks with 900 new homes at an estimated cost of £45 million, or £45,500 a house. Three other TWA blocks in Newham built after the Ronan Point disaster of 1968, and which feature a different flank wall joint which has caused most difficulties, are to be refurbished. There are thought to be at least 90 high-rise TWA blocks in England: 20 of them, including six at Newham, are of 14 or more storeys and are thought to be most at risk. A detailed report on TWA blocks, prepared by the Building Research Establishment, is due for publication next month. But Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, has written to six councils, including Newham, with the worst blocks, recommending that safety checks be carried out. Hammersmith and Fulham council, in west London, is carrying out immediate remedial work to its two TWA blocks, Harropp Point and Lanny Point. Haringey council, north London, also has two blocks on the Broadwater Farm estate. The council is awaiting a report commissioned from Building Design Partnership on the Kenley and Northolt blocks next week. Sunderland has seven TWA blocks of 16 storeys which are thought to be almost identical in construction to Ronan Point. The blocks were modified in 1970. About 400 tenants on the Ocean estate, Stepney, are being moved out of three blocks while repairs costing more than £2 million are carried out.

CID training improved

New training procedures are to be introduced by Scotland Yard to improve the effectiveness of young detectives. The changes, to be introduced on April 15, will involve up to 350 new detective constables each year, together with about 150 aspiring detective sergeants and 150 inspectors. A three-month entry course will concentrate on officers' motivation, and involve a large degree of self-teaching from training modules on which there will be continuous assessment. The law-based course at the Metropolitan Police detective training school will be replaced by one concentrating on fraud, burglary, assaults, and criminal damage.



Mr James Callaghan and Mr Neil Kinnock, past and present Labour leaders, with a chess set presented to Mr Callaghan at a dinner on Saturday to mark his 40 years as a Cardiff MP.

Farmer's gun guard on deer

By David Nicholson-Lord

Gangs of poachers drawn to deer-hunting by high venison prices are driving farmers to extreme counter-measures. Mr Tony Bennett, aged 30, who farms at Bickleigh in the upper Exe valley, will tonight mount armed guard on 50 acres of wooded Devon uplands, grazing for his herd of 70 Red deer, each animal worth more than £500. Around them will be several thousand feet of high-tensile net fencing, barbed wire entanglement, padlocked gates, spotlights and a mains electric circuit capable of delivering a stun shock of 8,000 volts every

two seconds.

Should any poacher succeed in breaching such impressive defences, he will come up against Mr Bennett, prowling the woods and hillsides in the dead of night, armed with one rifle and two shotguns.

Mr Bennett, who learned deer farming on a station at Taumarunui, on New Zealand's North Island, told *The Times*: "If I see anyone on the place with a gun I will shoot them. I have got to that stage. I will have no hesitation at all. It is my livelihood that is at risk."

Highly-organized poaching gangs, their targets ranging

from salmon and pheasants to deer, have increasingly troubled Devon landowners and game conservators in recent years. Mr Bennett blames unemployment and says he has some sympathy with their position.

But in January, only a few weeks after abandoning dairy production and investing heavily in a new herd of Red deer, he lost six hinds in four days.

A spokesman for Devon and Cornwall police yesterday declined to comment on Mr Bennett's security measures.

Link-up of Japanese islands nears completion £30m debt hangs over tunnel

From David Watts, Tokyo

With a blast of earth and a flood of light, two Japanese islands were yesterday linked for the first time by the world's longest undersea tunnel. With three *banzais*, hard-hatted workers set about the most enjoyable part of the ceremony — cracking open 72-litre casks of sake.

The celebrations are likely to be short-lived. The tunnel is a remarkable achievement. Twenty-one years of work and numerous lives have gone into it. Now it is finished, nobody knows quite what to do with it.

As the *Yamato Shimbun* put it in an unusually direct leading article: "To put it plainly, the expected economic attractions of the tunnel have vanished."

The tunnel, between Honshu and Hokkaido, was first proposed as part of the Imperial Japanese Plan for East Asia. Another tunnel would have linked Hokkaido to the Asian mainland and the Manchurian Railway, running south through Korea, would have linked Kyushu by a third tunnel forming a circular route to Tokyo.

The idea was revived after the war but pursued in a dilatory fashion until 1954 when a terrible typhoon struck the "Sally River", as the straits between Honshu and Hokkaido are known. Five inter-island ferries sank or capsized and 1,400 people died.

Construction began in 1972. The tunnel was to have been finished in seven years but flooding in 1976 put the project

behind schedule and raised costs to almost £2.5 billion. There lies the rub. The tunnel has been built with borrowed money. Annual repayments will be £30 million a year before Japan National Railways makes a *sen running* services from 1987.

That is the same year that the national railway system is due to be privatized. Few prospective buyers want to be saddled with such a guaranteed loss maker on top of the system's staggering accumulated debt.

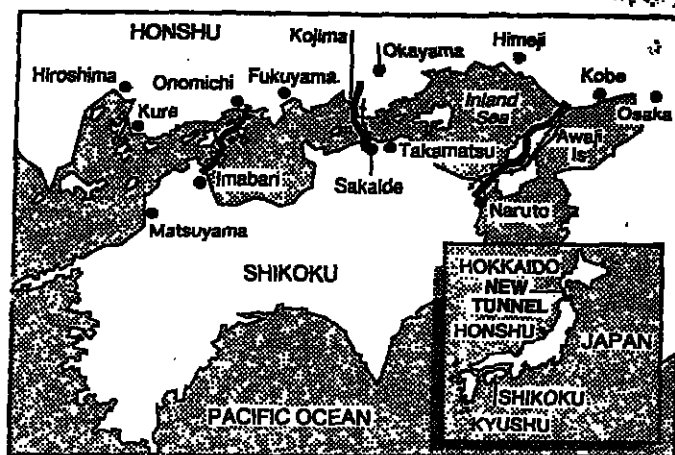
As they finished yesterday, some workers said they were dreaming of the day when bullet trains would whiz through their pride and joy to the unsporting beauties of Hokkaido. Alas, that would only add to the bills.

Since the tunnel was conceived, air travel and car

ownership have galloped ahead of the planner's estimates. A committee examining what to do believes the best thing would be to put in conventional rail tracks and carry visitors' cars on freight trains. But if tourist buses and lorries are to be carried there would have to be bullet train-standard tracks anyway.

Who would pay the extra cost of the track? None of the local governments are keen as they face lost jobs in the ferry business, which will not immediately be made up in new tourist business.

For the moment, the people of Honshu and Hokkaido are content that they have gone into the record books with their 33.85-kilometre tunnel buried 100 metres below the ocean bed.



Bridges bring hope of new industry

By Simon Scott Plummer

Huge steel towers are rising above the picturesque waters of the Inland Sea as Japan prepares to complete the linking of its four main islands by road and rail. If everything goes according to plan, by 1988 Honshu and Shikoku will be joined by a string of bridges.

By the turn of the century, the Japanese hope to have built three bridge routes across the Inland Sea, two of them carrying road and rail. The cost of this gigantic project is put at 3,360 billion yen (about £11 billion) and this could be a conservative estimate. The economic argument for an investment of this scale is that rapid and reliable transport between the two islands will raise living standards on both sides, particularly in Shikoku, which will be able to deliver its farm products more easily to the great cities of Honshu.

It is hoped also that the bridges will bring high-tech companies to the interior of the island; at present, industry is concentrated on the coast. Two bridges are already open on the western route between Onomichi and Imabari and a third is due for completion in 1988. On the eastern route, from Kobe to Naruto, a suspension bridge between Shikoku and Awaji Island will be finished this year. On the central route the substructure and some of the towers for the three main bridges will be ready by the spring.

Once completed, the project will contain nine of the 20 longest suspension bridges in the world. The Kojima-Sakade route alone will have bridges with central spans of 1,100 metres, 990 metres and 940 metres.

Environmental considerations are important in an area which has been a national park for 50 years. There are about 950 islands in the Inland Sea and the gnarled pines and red torii rising among their granite rocks are among the most beautiful sights of Japan.

Mr Hiroatsu Takahashi, president of the bridge authority, told *The Times* that the choice of route and of type of bridge had been influenced by such considerations.

India may settle in Bhopal suit

Delhi (Reuters) — India is prepared to forego litigation and settle with Union Carbide on compensation for victims of the poison gas leak that killed at least 2,500 people in Bhopal, the Minister of Law, Mr Ashoke Sen, said yesterday.

Mr Sen said a settlement depended on the compensation offered by the United States company. Union Carbide said on Saturday that it preferred negotiation to litigation to arrive at speedy and fair compensation for the victims. About 125,000 people were injured in the leak last December.

Authoritative sources said pressure had grown on the Government to settle the case after India announced on Friday that it would file a suit on behalf of all victims in a US court. An out-of-court settlement would circumvent suits already filed in the US.

The Indian Embassy in Washington said in a statement on Saturday that Delhi's lawyers were the Minneapolis firm of Robbins, Zelle, Larson and Kaplan.

A pre-trial hearing was scheduled for Tuesday before Judge John Keenan of the New York District Court to consider if US courts had jurisdiction over the suits already filed on behalf of the gas victims, and to appoint a lead counsel. But a court spokesman later said that Judge Keenan had decided to postpone the hearing until April 16.

● CONGRESS 1 TEAM: Except for Bihar and Rajasthan, the Congress (I) party, which won a majority in eight out of 10 states in the assembly elections, has fielded the same Chief Minister as candidates. R Madhav Singh Solanki in Gujarat. Mr Virbhadar Singh in Himachal Pradesh. Mr Arjun Singh in Madhya Pradesh. Mr Vasant Rao Patil in Maharashtra. Mr J. B. Patnaik in Orissa. Mr M. O. H. Farooq in Pondicherry. Mr N. D. Tewari in Uttar Pradesh (Kuldip Nayar writes).

Thais battle to hold strategic Hill 424

Aranyaprathet, Thailand (AP) — Vietnamese forces trying to surround a big Cambodian resistance camp assaulted a strategic hill in Thai territory, injuring 20 Thai soldiers, the assistant army spokesman said yesterday.

Colonel Anusorn Krissanasarni said Thailand was rushing reinforcements to the area of Hill 424, the base of which was surrounded by Vietnamese troops striking under cover of mortar fire on Saturday. Thai forces at the peak of the hill retained control, he said. Officers said the Vietnamese and Thais engaged in a 50-hour artillery duel on Saturday as Hanoi's forces tried to storm 424, about half a mile to 1.2 miles from the border.

The Thai armed forces' supreme commander, general Arhit Kamlang-Ek, said on Friday that 10 Thai soldiers have been killed, 34 others wounded and six reported missing in the border clash.

Four injured in Basque gun attack

Madrid — Suspected Basque terrorists fired on policemen guarding a television mobile broadcasting unit outside a crowded sports arena in Vitoria yesterday, wounding two television technicians and two policemen (Harry Debelius writes).

The mobile broadcasting unit was transmitting a basketball game for the state-run television network. Other policemen returned the fire and they got away. Three days earlier, also in Vitoria, the military wing of the Basque group ETA killed the chief of the Basque home rule Government's police.

In Valladolid, in north-central Spain, two hundred men set fire on Saturday night to the local headquarters of the Socialist trade union, UGT.

Warning to EEC by González

Madrid — The "psychological link" in the Spanish people's minds between EEC entry and remaining in NATO was starkly underlined by Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, at the end of five hours of talks on Saturday in Paris (Richard Wigg writes).

Talking to reporters, Señor González warned the Ten of the risks of an isolationist reaction by Spaniards if they are refused entry by January next year. This would create very serious problems.

Señor González appealed to President Mitterrand for France to play its full part in granting Spain acceptable entry terms during what Madrid regards as a make or break negotiating session starting next week. Señor González raised with the French the rivalry over who fishes in Community waters.

Zia revives parts of constitution

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, who has embarked after seven years of military rule on a gradual transfer of power to a civilian government, yesterday announced he was reviving the 1973 constitution apart from 28 key provisions relating to treason, subversion, fundamental rights and jurisdiction of the Supreme Courts.

General Zia, who made the announcement at a press conference in Rawalpindi, said that for the present martial law and military courts would continue. He declined to give any definite

date for ending martial law or restoring the remaining constitutional provisions. General Zia made a series of sweeping amendments to the suspended 1973 constitution on March 2. Mr Anwarul Haq, a former Chief Justice of Pakistan who headed the bench which originally gave legal sanction to General Zia's martial law, described these as having "knocked the 1973 constitution out of shape."

General Zia's announcement seems to meet popular demands, but it has come about after parliamentary elections which were boycotted by most

of the acknowledged Opposition on the ground that they were not being held under the 1973 constitution.

The Opposition will remain out of the future Parliament as a result of the cleverly timed, phased restoration of the 1973 constitution. This is apparently what the martial law regime intended.

Meanwhile, a special military court in Rawalpindi acquitted 13 accused out of a total of 18 charged with an anti-Government plot, commonly called the Libya conspiracy case. The five found guilty were sentenced to life imprisonment.



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Argentina accuses Britain of closing door to dialogue on Falklands

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Señor Dante Caputo, Argentina's Foreign Minister, has blamed Britain for the current freeze in relations over the Falklands and asked whether Mrs Margaret Thatcher is "afraid of rational dialogue".

In an interview with *The Times* last week, Señor Caputo said: "The British refusal to dialogue, let alone to negotiate, closes the door to the basic tool of diplomacy: the meeting." He insisted that Argentina wants to begin non-binding dialogue on the future of the islands "immediately" and pointedly set out the difference between a negotiation and a dialogue.

"Dialogue does not commit either side, it simply permits each side to understand the other's arguments," he said. "I want to make it very clear that we are aware of the difficulties of going forward on this for all sides, and that we believe the only mechanism is dialogue."

Señor Caputo said Argentina had not dropped its insistence that any talks include the issue of sovereignty, although he said Argentina was willing to put off discussion of sovereignty until after "more imminent issues."

Asked whether this insistence on discussing sovereignty did not amount to a precondition for talks, as Britain claims, Señor Caputo said that there could be no permanent solution to bilateral relations "if the real



Señor Dante Caputo: "Is Thatcher afraid?"

problem between the two countries are not addressed.

"What is the fundamental reason for the separation of the two governments?" he asked. "The problem of the sovereignty of the islands."

Señor Caputo said: "I ask myself whether Mrs Thatcher is afraid of rational dialogue. I don't know the answer."

Señor Caputo said that the militarization of the islands was pulling the South Atlantic "like a magnet" into the East-West conflict and had made the Falklands a strategic target. Referring to Mrs Thatcher's speech to the US Congress, Señor Caputo said the Prime Minister's statement that British

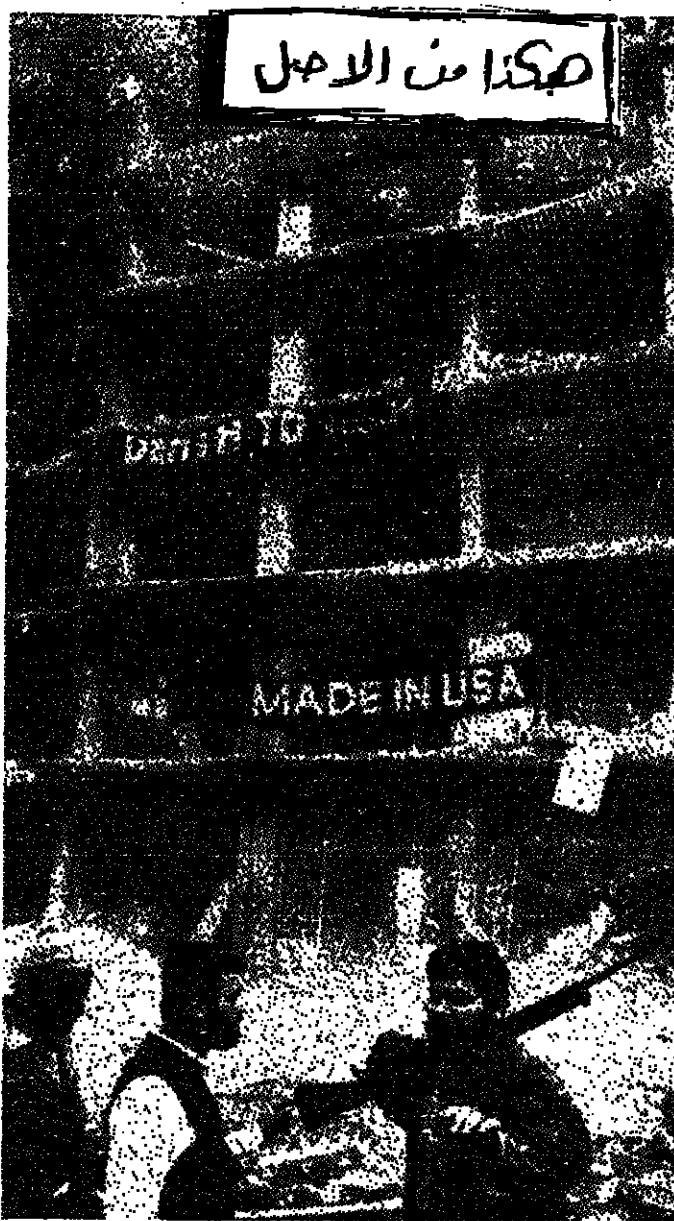
forces in the Falklands were among those Britain had deployed to defend Western liberty was completely unacceptable. "The inference that the freedom of the West can be defended by occupying Argentine territory is absolutely unacceptable... Argentina is decidedly in the forefront of the defence of Western liberty."

He added: "I sincerely hope that Mrs Thatcher's declining popularity will not tempt the Conservative Government to look to the Falklands as its salvation, the way (the Argentine military) did in 1982."

Señor Caputo said the inclusion of the sovereignty issue on any agenda for talks "would be nothing new. This is something that seems to be forgotten... the British Government has agreed to negotiate in the past over sovereignty."

He said the efforts of Señor Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General to mediate in the Falklands conflict "have run up against the same British intransigence we have."

He rejected suggestions that the civilian Government of President Raúl Alfonsín must "atone" for the sins of the military regime which seized the islands in 1982. "This is the Government that counts. It is a Government which has the support of the majority of the Argentine people."



Bomb aftermath: Under signs blaming the US, passersby argue with a gunman outside a Beirut building where a car bomb on Friday killed 75 people.

Mortars hammer army base

Israelis forced to retreat by guerrilla bombardment

From Robert Fisk, Qasmieh village, southern Lebanon

You could tell how heavily the Israelis had been attacked by the grim, dust-caked faces of the soldiers driving north from Tyre in their convoy of fast-moving Jeeps and trucks at the weekend.

Even in the meandering Palestinian refugee camp at Qasmieh, Mustapha Yusef said that he had never known such a fierce battle against the Israelis. He and his family had sat in their two-room, stone-floored home in the night, watching the tracers through the window and hoping none of the guerrillas' mortars would burst through their tin roof.

In was, indeed, one of the most extraordinary and brutal engagements in the latest phase of the war in southern Lebanon, a sustained attack on the Israeli Army's base beside the Qasmieh bridge at the mouth of

the Litani river, a guerrilla bombardment so heavy that at one point the Israelis, five of their soldiers cut down and wounded by shrapnel, actually drove some of their armoured vehicles south down the coast road and retreated up into the comparative safety of the Palestinian camp.

The Israelis were still trying vainly at the weekend to prevent journalists reporting from the Tyre area of southern Lebanon. And it was not difficult to see why they would not want the world to witness what was going on. For the first time, Lebanese guerrillas had laid their hands on a large quantity of mortars.

From a rooftop in the city I observed part of the Qasmieh battle on Friday night.

At one point I counted four mortar explosions every minute. At least 50 mortars fell round the Israelis in the space of one hour.

In the darkness a little later, a

helicopter without lights could be heard flying up the coastline to the Litani, presumably to evacuate one of the five soldiers, who was later reported by Israeli radio to have been critically wounded. The villagers of Qasmieh later complained to United Nations relief workers that the Israelis, after retreating into their refugee camp, had used the location as a fire base and attracted opposing fire onto the camp.

The grim little convoy that came up from Israel was led by an officer who looked remarkably like Lieutenant Moshe Levy, the Israeli Army Chief of Staff.

His expression was equally grave when he drove back from the Litani through Tyre half an hour later. The guerrillas' promised revenge for the killing of their leaders in Maarake last week - in a bomb explosion which they insist was Israel's doing and which Israel denies - appeared to have begun.

US visit could disappoint Mubarak

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Mubarak of Egypt arrived in Washington at the weekend in the hope of persuading the United States to play a more active role in the Middle East diplomacy. The indications are, however, that he is unlikely to win an American commitment to mediate between Israel and the Arabs.

Mr Mubarak will meet Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and will see President Reagan at the White House tomorrow.

He will be seeking a large increase in economic and military aid, but the signs are that the Administration is

reluctant to increase its support to Egypt.

A senior State Department official said: "We think that Egypt is a key actor and crucial to American interests in the Middle East. But this could be a less-than-successful visit for Mubarak if he has overly high expectations."

The African tragedy

UN sees need for extra £1.4 billion

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Twenty drought-stricken African countries which are either in the throes or on the verge of famine will need an extra \$1.5 billion (£1.4 billion) dollars of emergency relief aid, according to a report released by the recently-established United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa.

The report has been compiled as reference material for a donors' conference on Africa to be held in Geneva today. It lists the individual needs of the 20 countries in six categories: cereal food aid; agricultural production; medical aid; clothing and shelter; water projects; and logistics which includes the provision of trucks, spare parts and storage.

EXTRA EMERGENCY AID NEEDED BY EACH COUNTRY (Millions of US dollars)

	Food aid	Livestock
Angola	9.7	4.3
Burkina Faso	62.2	2.7
Chad	110.3	6.5
Mali	145.4	1.9
Mauritania	32.8	10.3
Mozambique	43.1	6.2
Niger	139.5	21.5
Sudan	114.0	95.0
Ethiopia	260.5	2.8
Botswana	2.8	2.0
Burundi	20.0	9.4
Cape Verde	17.4	0.3
Kenya	9.4	5.7
Lesotho	0.3	10.7
Rwanda	19.0	14.7
Senegal	5.9	18.0
Somalia	14.7	2.7
Tanzania	35.4	0.7
Zambia	0.7	185.5
Zimbabwe	0.7	
Total	1,043.12	

	Health	Shelter
Angola	4.5	11.1
Burkina Faso	2.5	2.0
Chad	7.5	2.0
Mali	6.0	2.0
Mauritania	5.5	3.4
Mozambique	10.0	1.5
Niger	1.5	8.8
Sudan	14.3	29.7
Ethiopia	4.1	4.3
Botswana	0.8	1.0
Burundi	0.8	1.0
Cape Verde	0.8	1.0
Kenya	3.0	1.8
Lesotho	1.8	1.8
Rwanda	1.8	1.8
Senegal	1.8	1.8
Somalia	6.0	1.8
Tanzania	1.5	1.8
Zambia	0.9	1.8
Zimbabwe	0.9	1.8
Total	69.9	52.5

As well as dealing with short-term aid requirements, the report stresses the need for long-term projects which would turn Africa into a self-sufficient food producing continent.

This is underlined by a dire portrait of the future. The report calls the famine "an unprecedented crisis which shows little sign of abating in the near future, even if drought conditions were to improve markedly during the next rainy season." It estimates that over 30 million people are affected, out of the 150 million in drought-stricken countries.

The data reflect emergency requirements at the end of January. Emergency food aid requirements still to be met cover the period to March-April 1985 for the southern hemisphere, to September-October for the northern hemisphere, and to June-July for the highland countries of East Africa, which benefit from two rainy seasons.

The UN has taken pains to point out that the statistics are by no means absolute, but are subject to changes on the ground.

●NAIROBI: The food situation in 21 drought-hit African states continues to deteriorate, and donor nations must increase their allocations of food aid this year if widespread starvation is to be avoided (Charles Harrison writes).

This warning is contained in a new review of the African food situation, prepared by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The FAO survey, released here at the weekend, says there was a "sizeable decline" in cereal production last year in the 21 countries, from Senegal and Mauritania in the west to Ethiopia and Somalia in the east, and from the Sudan and Chad in the north to Botswana in the south.

In some countries, food production has fallen short for two or three years, leading to widespread starvation and an acute shortage of seeds. "As a result, all 21 countries have abnormally high cereal import requirements - which can be met only through additional allocation of food aid," the FAO warns.

The FAO says the situation is most acute in Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger and Sudan.

Bush urges world effort to tackle famine

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

In his message yesterday to the African Emergency Conference, which includes Russia Mr George Bush, the US Vice-President, said he "will try to encourage every country, transcending ideology, to be supportive in this enormous human tragedy."



Mr Bush in Geneva yesterday

He has just visited Niger, Sudan and Mali to see for himself the human suffering resulting from food shortages in 20 African countries. He arrived here yesterday.

Some 80 countries are represented at the two-day meeting, which according to Mr Bradford Norse, director of the recently created Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, is not a pledging conference. It is directed, principally, he said, to facilitating mobilization of resources and determining whether UN efforts are as effective "as they can and should be".

He put the latest assessment of needs over the next 12 months at \$1.5 billion. "If we were in a wartime situation, it could be a case of full mobilization," he added. "That's what we need."

Leading article, page 13

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Soviet gloom over Geneva arms talks 'Star Wars' dominates Kremlin talks

From Richard Owen
Moscow

M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, arrived in Moscow yesterday for talks dominated by "Star Wars" and the Geneva arms negotiations.

But there was heightened speculation over whether M Dumas would meet President Chernenko, aged 73, who according to unconfirmed reports suffered a further relapse at the weekend.

Western diplomats said they had been asked to check rumours that the Soviet leader had taken a dramatic turn for the worse but had found no evidence for this.

As the renewed Soviet-American dialogue got under way, the Soviet Press took a largely gloomy view of the immediate prospects for the Geneva talks, with *Pravda* declaring that, although Moscow would make every effort to reach a compromise, President Reagan had

shown unnatural logic by building up arms on the eve of Geneva to strengthen his hand.

Mr Chernenko failed to attend a gala meeting at the Bolshoi last Thursday marking Women's Day. He re-appeared on television at the end of February after a two-month absence but looked ill and unenthusiastic.

M Dumas is expected to gain insights into Russia's attitude to

the Geneva talks, which open tomorrow, during talks today with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. He would normally meet President Chernenko as well.

Diplomats said the Russians would press M Dumas to voice French reservations about the American Star Wars project. Last week Mr Gromyko berated Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign

Minister, for supporting Star Wars during Herr Genscher's unscheduled visit to Moscow on his way to Finland.

Soviet officials said privately that, in spite of Mr Chernenko's recent illnesses, Kremlin policy was "solidly founded". The Soviet negotiators at Geneva had been given full instructions by the Politburo and Mr Vladimir Shcherbitsky, the Politburo member, was con-

tinuing his visit to the United States.

Pravda said yesterday that President Reagan's programme for a further arms build-up, including the MX missile, meant that the American delegation to Geneva was arriving with a new batch of first-strike missiles in its baggage. The talks would not be easy, but "vision and realism" would have to prevail if the arms race in space and on earth was to be ended, *Pravda* said.

Pravda said Mr Shcherbitsky's visit to America had produced "frank and blunt dialogue" on "disarmament. *Izvestia* said the future of life on Earth hung on the Geneva talks.

Tass attacked Mrs Thatcher yesterday for joining Bonn in supporting Star Wars and applauded Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, for saying in *The Observer* that Mrs Thatcher's stance would complicate the Geneva talks.

Reagan makes a plea for the MX

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

President Reagan intensified the pressure on Congress in his weekly radio address to the nation Saturday to support the controversial MX missile. He said that what Congress did could "directly, and perhaps dramatically, affect the outcome" of arms talks with the Soviet Union.

He added: "If the Congress acts responsibly, our negotiators will have a chance to succeed. But if we don't have the courage to modernize our land-based strategic missile systems, the Soviets will have little reason to negotiate meaningful reductions - and why should they?"

The Democrats, however, remain staunchly opposed to the missile programme. Senator Gary Hart, responding to

President Reagan, said the MX was too vulnerable a target to be a good bargaining chip. In a time of budget austerity, it was a waste of money. The Reagan Administration's multi-million dollar military build-up had already sent a signal to the Soviet Union of American resolve. "We can't show the Soviets we are strong by voting for a missile that is weak," he said.

Doubts over shots at RAF chief

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

After an intensive search and investigation over the weekend, West German police have concluded that an apparent assassination attempt against Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force in Germany, may have been a bad joke and was not linked to other recent terrorist outrages.

On Saturday afternoon at

least three shots were fired from a red BMW car as it overtook the car taking Sir Patrick, who is also commander of Nato's Second Allied Tactical Air Force, on an inspection tour to a mobile field headquarters in a Nato exercise. The incident happened near Moers, on the motorway about 20 miles north-east of Mönchengladbach, RAF headquarters in Germany.

Sir Patrick and his driver escaped unhurt and police were

unable to find any marks on the car or any bullets in the area near by. A police spokesman said that if the gun had been loaded it was extraordinary that the gunman, one of four passengers in the BMW, did not hit Sir Patrick's car at such close range.

In the past week there have been a number of terrorist attacks against Nato and especially American targets, and the extremists Red Army Faction has claimed responsibility.

Toll of 130 dead after Iraq pounds eight Iran cities

Tehran (Reuters) - Iraq attacked eight Iranian cities with bombs and missiles yesterday and Iran said it raided two targets in Iraq as neither side showed any sign of let-up in attacks on civilian targets.

The national news agency IRNA said the death toll from Iraqi attacks yesterday was at least 130, bringing the total since last Monday to 525. Iraq said its planes hit a naval

target yesterday, near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal. Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday renewed his call on the two sides to stop shelling civilian zones.

Iran's leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, served notice yesterday that he had abandoned hope of UN intervention.



Child's play: A four-year-old pianist needed blocks to rest her feet on during a contest for musically inclined children in Peking at the weekend

Eight Kurds killed in clash with troops

Ankara (Reuters) - Eight separatist guerrillas and two soldiers were killed in a clash near Diyarbakir eastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said yesterday.

Kurdish guerrillas seeking autonomy regularly battle with Turkish troops in the east of the country.

The agency said one of the dead guerrillas was a girl. It identified the soldiers as a non-commissioned officer and a private. A passer-by was also killed.

At least 25 soldiers have been killed and many guerrillas killed or detained since last August, according to official statement. Most of the attacks are ascribed to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), suspected by Turkey of having bases in Iraq.

Bachelor fiesta voted a hit

Plan, Spain - The biggest fiesta this tiny Pyrenees village has seen came to an end with at least three of the 130 bachelors who advertised for brides bound for the altar, with 10 other possibilities.

The 116 girls who answered the newspaper advertisement came to a three-day, get-acquainted fiesta and Plan's bachelors have decided it will have to become an annual event.

In good heart

Louisville, Kentucky (AP) - Murray Haydon, the world's third permanent artificial heart recipient, is no longer in isolation and visitors can see him without wearing surgical masks and gowns.

Books saved

Canberra (Reuters) - A £1.2 million fire at the Australian National Library does not seem to have caused major damage to its collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Capri cover

Capri (AP) - Capri, the sparkling island off the coast of Naples, is planning to cover its most popular square with a movable roof to keep out winter winds and rain.

More Chinese

Peking (Reuters) - China's population rose by 11.09 million last year to reach 1,036,040,000 at the end of 1984, the State Statistical Bureau reported.

Simone on top

Simone Signoret, the former French film actress, who has topped France's best-seller list with her first novel, *Adieu l'oubli*, which she completed before failing eyesight meant she could no longer decipher her own handwriting.

Amnesty for 260

Montevideo (Reuters) - Uruguay's newly installed Parliament has approved an amnesty for 260 political prisoners jailed by the former military regime.

Space scope

Moscow (AP) - Soviet and French scientists will soon launch a space observatory into orbit carrying a large gamma-ray telescope in an effort to solve the mysteries of cosmic radiation, *Izvestia* report.

Picasso theft

Chicago (AP) - A Picasso painting *Nu Couché et Jouant de Fruct* has been stolen from the privately owned Richard Gray Art Gallery here.

Academic brew

Pullman, Washington (AP) - After Washington State University announced Mr Samuel Smith would become its next president, a local supermarket began featuring English beers of the same name.

Shark may have caught escaper

From Michael Hornby
Johannesburg

An escape attempt, the only one so far this century, by a prisoner on Robben Island, South Africa's Alcatraz-style prison in Table Bay, has captured the imagination of people of all races here.

It is still not certain whether the prisoner, a mixed-blood Coloured called Jan Kamfer, was successful. There are fears that he may have drowned or been eaten by a shark. No one has ever escaped from the island, which is four and a quarter miles from the nearest shore, and lived to tell the tale. The only other recorded escape, in 1819, ended in drowning.

Mr Kamfer, aged 20 was jailed for 18 months last January for housebreaking and theft and disappeared from a work team on the island.

A paddle-ski is a kind of large surfboard which the paddler, sitting with his feet loosely held by two canvas straps, propels like a canoe.

No signs of the fugitive or his frail craft have yet been found, despite a search by the Navy and Air Force. "He must be a brave man. Good luck to him", said Mr Tim Ryan, captain of the Western Province paddle-ski team. "If he slipped off and fell into the water, it wouldn't take long to die of hypothermia".

Table Bay is on the Atlantic side of the Atlantic-Indian Ocean divide, and the water is extremely cold. On the day of his escape, Mr Kamfer would also have been paddling against a stiff south-easterly wind.

Robben Island was used as a place of banishment for convicts and mutinous sailors even before permanent white settlement at the Cape in 1652.

For the last 20 years, however, it has been the main prison for long-term political prisoners, though it also holds ordinary criminals. For many years, the island's most celebrated resident was Mr Nelson Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress, but he is now in a jail on the mainland.

Twelve young whites, most of them students at the University of Cape Town were arrested by the security police before dawn on Friday and charged with attending an illegal gathering.

They were later released on bail of 150 rands (£70) each and are due to appear in court again on March 29.

The illegal gathering mentioned in the charge took place on November 14 last year, when a number of students stood along the road outside the university with banners protesting against the arrest of Miss Kate Phillips, the president of the National Union of South African Students.

Walesa forbidden to leave Gdansk without approval

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities have ordered Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, to seek official permission every time he wants to leave his hometown of Gdansk, in an attempt to stifle his opposition to the Government of General Jaruzelski.

Mr Walesa was also given a fresh warning by the Gdansk state prosecutor that he was facing a hefty jail term - five years for leading an illegal union and three years for inciting public unrest - unless he abandoned his opposition activities.

But Mr Walesa made clear after a round of questioning -

rather one-sided, because he refused to give any answers - that he will continue fighting for Solidarity.

"I would like to remind you that I still regard myself as chairman of Solidarity and I shall continue to struggle by peaceful methods regardless of whether I am rewarded or punished for this," he said in a statement prepared for the prosecutor during the Saturday questioning.

His lawyer, Mr Jacek Taylor, was told at the weekend that both charges against the Solidarity leader were being actively investigated.

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swissair

Karamanlis resigns over Papandreou plan to cut presidential powers

From Mario Modiano, Athens



President Karamanlis: Nomination withdrawn

Constitutional proposals to strip the Greek President of effective power and reduce him to a figurehead role, will be tabled in Parliament today by the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), the party of Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister.

The proposals come 48 hours after Mr Papandreou, in a spectacular but confusing move, blocked President Karamanlis's re-election for another five-year term due to be considered on March 15. He nominated as Pasok's candidate Mr Christos Sartzetakis, aged 56, a highly regarded Supreme Court judge.

President Karamanlis, who was 78 on Friday and had been nominated for re-election by the conservative opposition party New Democracy, withdrew from the contest on Saturday and resigned last night. In a statement he disclosed that Mr Papandreou had given him an "unsolicited" pledge of support.

The Prime Minister's change of heart was announced to a meeting of Pasok's 140-member Central Committee, which had expected him to coax them into endorsing the candidature of Mr Karamanlis against their will because of the need to reassure uneasy centre voters as well as Greece's Western allies.

His announcement, which surprised some ministers, brought thunderous applause and cries of joy. Mr Papandreou, explaining the volte-face said he gave the highest priority to the need to increase the powers of Parliament and the executive by reducing the prerogatives of the President granted by the 1975 constitution.

The constitution, however, was Mr Karamanlis's "brain-child", and what a paradox it would be to ask Mr Karamanlis to carry on as President with emasculated powers, Mr Papandreou explained.

Whether the Socialist leader was giving in to pressures from his party's Marxist hard core, which sees President Karamanlis as an obstacle to Socialism, or whether he engineered the change to outsmart the old

President by catching him off-guard, remains to be seen.

Perhaps Mr Papandreou's most telling remark was before Pasok's Jubilee parliamentary group meeting on Saturday night when he said: "This marks the deliverance of democracy and belies all those who claimed that we had been assimilated by the old system."

Pasok's move elicited favourable, but as yet non-committal, reactions from the pro-Soviet Greek Communist Party (KKE) whose 12 votes in Parliament are vital to elect Mr Sartzetakis.

He would need 200 votes out of 300 in the first round of March 15, which the present parliamentary arithmetic would preclude. The same majority is needed in the second round five days later, but in the third and final round, again days later, 180 votes are enough.

If Mr Sartzetakis cannot get elected, Parliament will be dissolved and elections held within 40 days. The new chamber then elects a President, if need be, by a relative majority.

Many Conservatives in the Opposition now believe that Mr Papandreou, by depriving himself of the Karamanlis umbrella, has done a great service to New Democracy, which hopes to attract those disgruntled centre voters who in 1981 gave a crushing victory to Pasok.



Mr Papandreou arriving at the Pasok meeting to announce his change of heart

Terror drives whole village to join Tamil boat exodus

From Michael Hamlyn, Rameshwaram

A huddle of tired people stand on the beach near the port jetty at this holy town. They look untidy and drawn, from having spent all night crowded together in a 20ft fibreglass fishing smack, and they don't say much. They smile gently to themselves, because they feel secure for the first time for weeks on end.

These are the new boat people, fleeing the terror inflicted on them by the undisciplined soldiery of Sri Lanka. They are Tamils seeking the sanctuary of Tamil Nadu in India.

Since February 5, 14,402 people have made the midnight crossing and more come every morning. The terror must be especially bad for them to leave behind their houses, their growing crops and their furniture to the mercy of the Sinhalese forces.

Rameshwaram is the closest point on mainland India to Sri Lanka. It juts out towards the

Mannar peninsula and it is so holy that the plough may not turn the earth here nor its fruit be pressed for oil.

According to Hindu legend, Lord Rama, having defeated the wicked King of Lanka, returned to the Indian mainland here and set up a temple to commemorate his victory. His wife Sita, newly restored to him, built the temple's lingam with her own hands. Now the boatman - fleeing from the Lankan authorities - steer towards the light on the temple's historic tower.

The new arrivals are greeted by a posse of customs officers and taken off their belongings loaded on bullock carts, to *chattrams*, ancient lodging houses where for centuries pilgrims have been lodged free of charge.

While his wife and three children, grey with fatigue, shelter in the shadow of a fishing boat the schoolmaster of the little Sri Lankan village of

Pesalai explains that his was the last family to leave. He describes a raid on the village two weeks ago which made them all decide to move to India.

The soldiers surrounded the village and came in at first light, looting the empty houses and stealing money and valuables from inhabited ones. They ordered three young men to run, and as they ran they shot them.

A few miles away on the Indian mainland, in a big transit camp at Manapam, the cinema owner from the same village also describes the raid, corroborating the details and explaining that the inhabitants of Pesalai felt caught between a rock and hard place.

If they did not give food and shelter to the militants, they were in trouble. If they did, they were in trouble from the Army. That was why the village as a whole decided to leave.

Nkomo denounces election as fraud

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (AP) - To the cheers and whistles of some 50,000 supporters, Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Opposition leader, mounted a virile attack yesterday on Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe Government.

The rally at the White City stadium in Bulawayo, believed to be the biggest since independence, was the official launch of Mr Nkomo's campaign for a general election scheduled for mid-June. But he claimed that

the elections were "already a fraud - a fraud before they started."

Mr Nkomo declared: "Independence without freedom is meaningless, and there is no freedom in this country." He said Mr Mugabe's Government was "led by fascists, not even comparable to Herr Hitler."

Bulawayo is the capital of Matabeleland province, a focal point of political violence in the run-up to the elections, the first since Rhodesia became black-

ruled Zimbabwe on April 18, 1980. Matabeleland is also home of the minority Ndebele tribe, which forms Mr Nkomo's power base. Mr Mugabe is of the dominant Shona tribe.

In his speech, Mr Nkomo alleged that loyalists have abducted and murdered 378 people in Matabeleland as part of "an ongoing exercise to bring fear and intimidate people" to vote for Mr Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front).

European Notebook

Hunt for scapegoat focuses on Britain



With just three weeks to the next European Summit, everyone is preparing to blame someone else in the event of what could be an extremely costly failure.

To be a success this summit will have to approve the final terms to bring in Spain and Portugal, rubber stamp a plan to eke out the finances, dedicate itself to cleaning up the environment and set guidelines for future development of the Community into some kind of other European Union. There is serious trouble on all fronts, however, and the need for whipping boys and scapegoats has never been greater.

Britain is the traditional favourite. West Germany blames it for having blocked its plans to clean car exhausts. Italy, as President of the Council of Ministers, holds it primarily responsible (with Denmark) for having stopped a deal on fishing rights which would have cleared the way for enlargement. Just about everybody resents having agreed to give Britain a £600 million budget concession this year.

All this adds up to proof, in the minds of those who like to think that way, that Britain is an unconvinced European. There should be a difficulty about branding Britain, in advance, as the spoilsport that difficulty is that its reputation for being un-European is not entirely borne out by the facts.

Take European union - or "unity", as Britain prefers to call it. There is no more staunch supporter of the principle of opening up the internal market, of allowing free movement of insurance policies and cheap air tickets and of harmonising new technology standards. The

trouble is that Britain alone is properly geared up to profit from such moves, so the others will not easily agree them.

Consider the committee report on institutional reform being drawn up for the summit. On two points there was unanimous recommendation by committee members as long ago as the Dublin summit in December. Mrs Thatcher suggested then that they be adopted immediately; and won no backing at all.

Then there are the milk quotas. Britain's dairy farmers have never stopped complaining about them, but they have observed them rigidly, which is more than can be said for almost any other country.

Even on the European Monetary System, which it has yet to join fully, Britain is not entirely Eurosinful. The system's currency, the ECU (European Currency Unit), is after sterling and the dollar the most common in use in Britain. West Germany refuses to allow the ECU inside its borders.

In cold statistics, perhaps the only guide to Britain's relative integration is the number of times it has run foul of European law. According to a Commission report, it is easily the most law-abiding of the four large countries, and only slightly more naughty than tiny Luxembourg. Between 1978 and 1983 Britain was hauled before the court 10 times. This compares with 13 times for West Germany, 33 for France and 69 for Italy.

It would be wrong to present Britain as a paragon of EEC virtue. The trouble is that it has so far failed to learn the fine EEC art of persuading others it is fighting for Europe, when all it is really doing is defending its own corner.

Ian Murray

Deng insists goal still communism

From Mary Lee Peking

China's economic reforms which have led to "unhealthy tendencies" among officials and factory managers, has prompted a policy statement from Mr Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader.

He hopes to stem fears of a political backlash against the new policies or the country turning corrupt and capitalist and divided by wealth gaps.

In his capacity as chairman of the Chinese Communist Party's central advisory commission, Mr Deng said on Friday that the ultimate goal of China's socialist modernization was to attain communism.

Mr Deng used a national conference on science and technology to make the statement.

For the conservatives who are afraid that economic liberalization may result in the loss of the Party's control over the country, Mr Deng had these words of comfort: "We allow the development of private enterprises (that is, private enterprises) and joint ventures and even of enterprises owned solely by foreign corporations. But all along the socialist public ownership of the means of production must be maintained as the mainstay of our economy."

Poor prefer children to payouts

From Stephen Taylor Singapore

An incentive scheme by which the Singapore Government is attempting to get poorly educated couples in low-income groups to stop having children has attracted only 57 applicants since being introduced last June.

Of these, 47 couples have been approved for payouts of \$4,300 in return for being sterilized after one or two children. Another 116 couples who showed initial interest apparently thought better of it.

Meanwhile, new applications have slowed to a trickle, with only three couples coming forward so far this year.

Another of Singapore's ambitious, some might say Orwellian, social engineering programmes - the attempt to get reluctant university graduates to mate - has produced even fewer results.

Since its formation a year ago, the Government's Social Development Unit has striven with a meticulousness and secrecy which are characteristically Singaporean to arrest what Mr Lee Kuan Yew's Government sees as an alarming decline in the marriage of women graduates.

Mr Lee believes that bright parents will produce the bright children needed to safeguard the island's future.



Extracts from the statement of Sir Jeremy Morse, Chairman, Lloyds Bank Plc, in the 1984 Report and Accounts, to be published on 4 April 1985.

In 1984 Group profits before provisions and taxes were £737m, 16% up on the previous year. Pre-tax profits, after provisions for bad and doubtful debts of £269m, were 12% up at £468m. Post-tax profits were 17% down at £237m.

The dividend for the year will be 26.5p on the capital enlarged by last year's 1 for 5 issue, an effective increase of 12%. This year we are proposing a 1 for 2 bonus issue to capitalise reserves and to bring the share price more within reach of the small investor.

These are encouraging results, given that we are still in the trough of the banking cycle, a trough which has been extended over nearly three years as the great inflation of the 1970s slowly subsides.

The welcome recovery we have seen to an average growth rate of about 3% in the major economies has done more for prosperous sectors and companies around the world than for those in difficulties. Hence our need to continue making provisions at an exceptionally high level for the third year running.

We will continue to devote our skills to managing the remaining problems, by ourselves or with other banks in the case of corporate debt, and in a larger co-operation with governments, central banks and the International Monetary Fund in the case of country debt.

During 1984 the dollar remained strong, and over the year rose by 25% against the pound. This affected our figures in a number of ways. Despite the growth in our business, our total assets fell when expressed

Lloyds Bank 1984 Results

	1984	1983
Profit before taxation	£468m	£419m
Profit after taxation	£237m	£284m
Earnings per share	98p	119p
Dividends per share	26.5p	23.7p
Total assets	£44,009m	£38,432m

in dollar terms; the income from our international operations was increased in sterling terms; and our international exposure was increased in relation to our capital.

At such a time it has been most unfortunate that the tax burden on British banks has been increased and their capital strength reduced, notably by the impact on leasing of last year's UK Budget changes on capital allowances. This accounts for the disproportionate deterioration in our post-tax results. It also required us, as we announced last May, to provide from reserves £465m for deferred tax relating to leasing business undertaken in previous years.

Fortunately our capital ratios were previously strong by both British and world standards. Even so, the ratio of our shareholders' funds to total assets was brought down from 6% before the Budget to 4.7% at the end of the year. It will take time to restore this ratio to a higher level, and with this in mind our prime objective must be to improve our return on equity.

The second half of the 1980s is likely to see big changes in banking and other financial services. We are positioning ourselves to maintain a strong performance through those changes and beyond.

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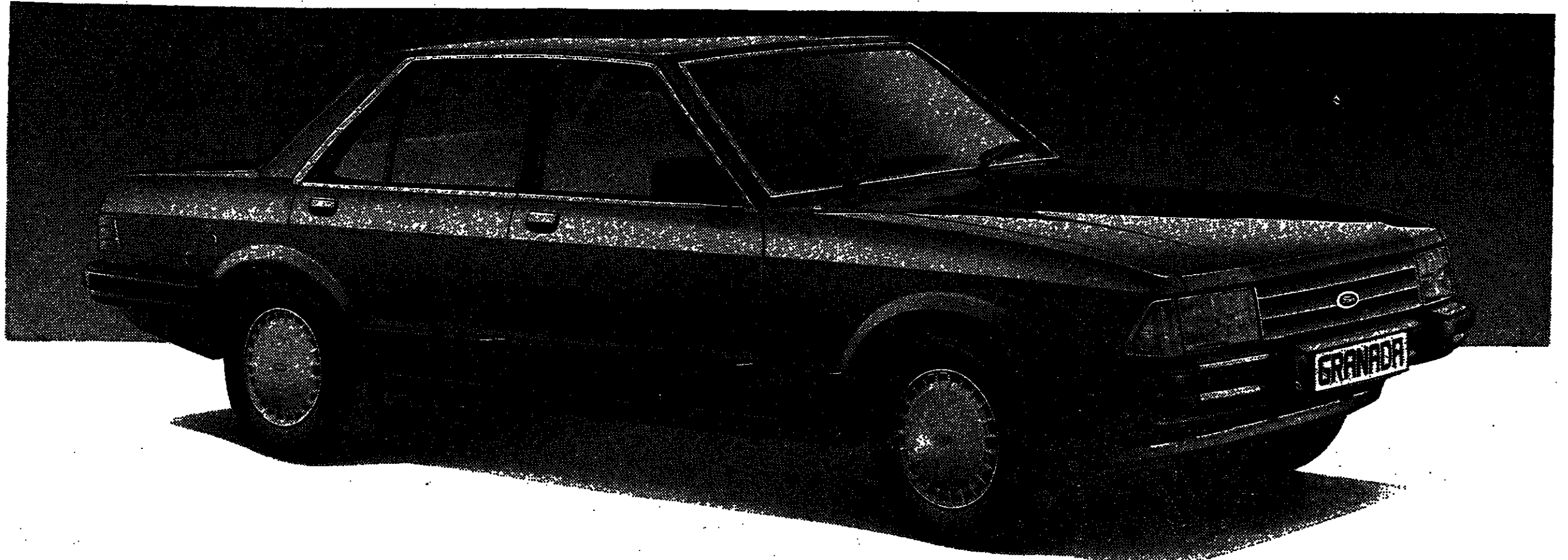
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And, on top of all this, many Ford dealers still have limited stocks of some models at their pre-increase prices, but, needless to say, they are selling fast.

So check up with your local Ford dealer right away. He could well make that great deal even better than you'd imagine.

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MONDAY PAGE

صباحنا من الامل

For B&B
read bed
and bored

Evicted home-owners unable
to repay their mortgages are
being forced to live in slum
conditions. Alan Franks looks
at the new homeless

There are more families living in the bed-and-breakfast belt than ever before. Traditionally this has been the first refuge of parents and children thrown out by relatives no longer able to accommodate them. Today there is growing evidence that the housing crisis in London and other major cities has become so acute that even middle-class couples, unable to meet their mortgage repayments because of recession and the resulting job loss, are being thrown towards the costly mercies of the B-and-B sector.

Since 1982 the number of homeless families housed in these supposedly temporary arrangements has increased by 50 per cent, and the indications are that this figure will continue to rise.

It is a grim landscape, in Bayswater, west London, where the crumbling Victorian stucco now fronts tourist hotels and multi-occupation units, one room with a shared bathroom can command a rent of more than £120 a week. In most instances, this cost is borne by local authorities; they would, housing pressure groups all over the country insist, get a better return for the money by investing it in the building of new housing stock.

One young woman to whom we spoke, a mother of two children aged three and two, was forced to leave her semi-detached house when her husband lost his job and the building society foreclosed on the mortgage. Since then, the couple have separated and she now lives with her children in a cramped hotel bedroom in Bayswater.

There are only two cookers in the basement of the building to meet the needs of some 80 residents. In her room, the gas ring is sited beneath the fire sprinkler, making it unusable. All cooking has to be done on the opposite side of the room, on the bed of the elder child. The cost of this accommodation is £160 a week.

Since the national figure of mortgage foreclosures has risen by 300 per cent in the past three years, it is hardly surprising that the B-and-B sector, where costs have been pushed up by tourist demand, is having to take much of the strain.

A survey undertaken recently by Shelter (National Campaign

for the Homeless) and SHAC (The London Housing Aid Centre) concluded that such accommodation is costing London authorities £13 million each year. It also estimated that by the end of last year 3,000 families accepted by the council as being homeless under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act of 1977, were in bed-and-breakfasts - again a threefold rise in as many years.

On Wednesday a report by SHAC will castigate the Government for its failure to meet the demands of the homeless. Yet their figures are only the tip of the iceberg as there are many more families, not officially designated as "homeless" under the Act, who must now be found by the Department of Health and Social Security board and lodging allowance. When the ceilings on these allowances are reduced next month, it will then fall to the local authorities to make good the deficit. One London borough, Camden, reckons that it might have to find an additional £250,000 for top-up payments during the next financial year.

Opponents of government housing policy argue that all these statistics represent the hidden cost of a drive towards increased home ownership. As rent council accommodation falls, runs the argument, so the pressure on private hotels for the homeless mounts and the state is compelled to meet bills inflated by the pressures of the tourist market.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities is gravely concerned. In a paper delivered to the Hotel Homelessness Conference on February 16, it pointed out that when the relevant Act was introduced, eight years ago, investment in public housing was running at a level five times higher than at present; that there were 132,000 homes being started and 162,000 completed in the public sector compared with 30,000 and 40,000 respectively now.

During the current year, the association predicts, another 5,000 families will be added to "this cold statistic which represents the country's most urgent housing need". It also castigates the "voodoo economics" which, it claims, prevent local authorities from improving bad housing, cre-



ating building jobs in the process, housing the homeless on a secure and permanent basis, gaining rent and rate income; instead the policies encourage the giving of large subsidies often to disreputable landlords.

According to the latest Department of the Environment statistics, mortgage default is a reason for homelessness is more common outside the capital, and at the end of last year accounted for 7 per cent of the total. (This compares with figures for marital dispute: 25 per cent; rent arrears: 18 per cent; and parents/relatives no longer willing to accommodate: 43 per cent.)

The figures seem bloodless beside the human realities. The main problem is that living quarters which were intended for short stays are now having to serve as semi-permanent lodgings. In the case of the growing number of dispossessed middle-class families, it is a not uncommon cause of acute domestic friction, often splitting husband from wife - with the usual consequence of turning her into the head of a one-parent family, in surroundings which are little better than slums.

The bed-and-breakfast tag is often a sham - the hotel offers no breakfast; there may be no playrooms for the children, no social rooms for the adults, no laundry facilities, no cleaners.

One well-spoken young div-

orce, formerly a joint home-owner, spends most of her days at the local Under-Fives club, where there is at least company, heating, and a cup of tea. "I make them some kind of breakfast on the ring in the room, then we go down to the centre till about four, then back to the room. Then I make them some burgers on the ring and put them to bed at about 6pm. After that, I just sit down and watch the television. I never go out in the evenings, partly because I haven't the money, and partly because the owners don't like it if you get strange people in to baby-sit."

One of the helpers running the group admits that only a tiny percentage of the bed-and-breakfast families in the catchment area comes to the centre. "Mostly there's this sort of inertia that sets in. They feel hopeless and helpless. Even if

they know we're here, they don't bother to get out and come along. They just seem to get mesmerized by their own sense of defeat, and sit in the room with their children, all through the day."

There is another, new dimension to the crisis. Without this most basic accommodation in their own boroughs, many local authorities are placing families in hotels at the other end of the capital, with the result that social contact with the old neighbourhood is all but lost. Tower Hamlets, for example, is now having to find living quarters for its homeless 15 miles away, at Heathrow. The irony is that because even accommodation such as this is now at a premium, councils are competing with one another for rooms and helping to force the prices up to levels which they can ill afford.

HOUSEHOLDS IN LONDON BOROUGH IN B & B

	Dec 81	Dec 84		Dec 81	Dec 84
Barnet	7	n/a	Lambeth	81	90
Bexley	133	677	Lewisham	3	35
Brent	82	750	Merton	2	1
Camden	62	614	Newham	2	1
City	65	192	Richmond	n/a	n/a
Ealing	56	11	Southwark	23	30
Enfield	18	223	Sutton	57	367
Hackney	52	76	Tower Hamlets	82	102
Harrow	114	38	Wandsworth	179	102
Hillingdon	21	88	Westminster	977	2294
Hammersmith	6	15			
King's Cross	83	12			
Kensington	47	n/a			
Kingston					

Source: Local authorities, Barking and Dagenham, Bromley, Croydon, Greenwich, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest had no figures in B & B.

Playing on: one woman's
legacy to India

There was no one quite like Jennifer Kendal for selfless devotion. For years she put her acting aside to bring up her family, while her younger sister Felicity's career blossomed in England, she retained a dream of bringing a high standard of drama to India, her adopted country. Finally, with her husband, the film star Shashi Kapoor, she opened the Prithvi Theatre in Bombay.

I was at the Prithvi when the Marathi Theatre Academy were due to perform *Ghashiram Kotwal* half an hour before the show was due to start. I was told that they had not yet arrived.

"From their hotel?" I asked, thinking it was slack of them.

"No from Poona," said Kunal Kapoor, Jennifer's eldest son with an unfurled smile that may have masked a variety of emotions. Poona is over 100 miles from Bombay and the roads are none too good. A few minutes afterwards, the director and leading actor were chatting on the foyer's steps, as if they had all the time in the world, before disappearing backstage to produce one of the best theatrical entertainments I have seen.

The Prithvi Theatre, named after Jennifer's father-in-law, the actor Prithviraj Kapoor, is considered the finest in Bombay for both actors and audience. It has an open stage surrounded by semicircular banks of seats rather like a mini-Chichester. The prices for the seats and the companies' hire are kept deliberately low to encourage developing talent.

For five years Jennifer tried to raise standards of Indian theatre to a more international level. She was only deflected from her work there when she returned to acting in films - an award-winning performance as an Anglo-Indian schoolteacher in *36 Chowringhee Lane* proved that her talent, though dormant for years, was undiminished.

'Their enthusiasm for theatre is the Kendals' endearing quality'

In November 1983 she put on a festival to celebrate the Prithvi Theatre's first five years. Sadly, it was her last work at the theatre, for, in September last year, she died of cancer at the age of 50.

This year's Prithvi Festival, organized by Kunal, aged 25, was a tribute to her. It was timed for February as the 28th was her birthday; Kunal said: "We thought we would give it to her as a birthday present". It was a present of which she would have approved, for it realized her wish to demonstrate the international language of theatre.

Appropriately, her parents Geoffrey and Laura Kendal opened the festival with excerpts from Shakespeare. The Kendals toured India for more than 20 years with a theatre company in which Jennifer and Felicity learnt their craft. They inspired the Merchant/Ivory film *Shakespeare Wallah*, and brought the English classics to two generations of Indians.



Family business: Jennifer and Felicity Kendal in 1982

Now well into their seventies they are still touring. The performance at the Prithvi was preceded by snake-charmers and acrobats in the foyer and ended with the audience giving them a standing ovation.

The endearing quality of the Kendals is their enthusiasm for theatre. They are also, like other actors of their generation, perfectionists. Although they have performed their two-handers, George Kilty's *Dear Liar* and Arbuzov's *Old World* on many occasions, they spent the week beforehand rehearsing strenuously.

The Festival then moved to the heart of India in a play *Pashu Gayatri*, performed in Mewari (a little known dialect) by the Bheels of Rajasthan. The company of tribal players were performing for the first time outside their area, and without the customary 40 days of religious rituals which are part of the event.

They were followed by a play from Manipur, on the borders of Burma, which combined tribal art forms with an acknowledgement to the physical theatre of Poland - the company's director, Kanhaiyalal, had studied with Grotowski. The cross-fertilization continued - *Death of a Salesman* in English, performed by Indian actors; an Indian play, *It's All Yours*, translated from the original Marathi into Bombay English; Charles Fuller's *Soldier's Play*, translated into Gujarati; and even a Hindi version of John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, renamed *Main Zinda Hoon Main Sochta Hoon*.

Look Back in Anger demonstrated some of the difficulties of translating a play specifically set in a certain time and place in England into Hindi. The reading of "poth" Sunday papers in bed, the insistent sound of church bells, the constant harping on the theme of class, have no precise Indian equivalent.

Ghashiram Kotwal had the distinction of being panned in

Poona when it was first seen because of its satirical treatment of the Brahmins.

Based on a true story it is set in the dying days of the Maratha Empire in the 18th century. Nana Phadnis, the Marathi 'Chancellor', appoints Ghashiram, an outsider, as the *Kotwal* - Chief of Police.

The play combines folk dance, mime and music, which transcend language barriers.

After the show we were invited to dinner with the company. Mats were spread on a paved area under the palm trees by the theatre and we sat crosslegged to eat a Marathi meal of vegetable curry, *rotis* and *dhal* served from large buckets into *thalis*, and eaten

'Prithvi Theatre is considered to be the finest in Bombay'

with the fingers. Meanwhile, the director, Jabbar Patel, discussed the qualities of Peter Brook's three *Carmen* at the Bouffes du Nord. It summed up the universality of theatre. Jennifer would have loved it.

Even more, she would have loved the evening on which her birthday was celebrated. Two of India's best musicians - Zakir Hussain, the mop-headed genius of the tabla, and Shivkumar Sharma, the leading exponent of the *santoor* - played for three hours to an enraptured audience. The house full signs were ignored and people sat in the aisles, on stage, in the wings behind the musicians. At the end, Zakir said, "We wish Jennifer a happy birthday and this is our tribute to her." A haunting folksong from Jammu and Kashmir held the audience spellbound. It was a special acknowledgement from India to the English women who had found a place in their hearts.

Clare Colvin

Brought to book on the 8.41

My hobby is the addictive, semi-conscious vice of biblioscopy, or having to see what the other person is reading - usually on a train. I only realized quite recently that I've been doing it for years, peering over shoulders, bending down to attend simultaneously to a shoe and a dust-jacket, furtively changing seats.

Am I alone in this affliction? I doubt it, and suspect the commuter trains are packed with voyeurists of a similar bent.

It is only on the commuter train, in fact, that the vice can be given full rein. This is chiefly because it is only in the rail enforced idleness of a journey that you will see many people in some place reading. And when commuters read from their furtive something about our fellow man.

Rubbish, of course, said to say, is much of what our fellow man and woman reads. This perhaps tells us something about popular taste anyway. From my long researches on the 8.41am, I can confirm that women are doing most of the reading - of books that is.

With male passengers the most popular author at the moment (apart from the Tom Sharpe, as his books have gradually stopped being funny, so his popularity as a comic novelist has burgeoned) though I have yet to see a commuter laugh out loud.

So Sharpe scores low in the biblioscopy's I-Spy - as do the likes of Adrian Mole (a markedly female taste), and the last year's *Raj* books, and the year before, *Brideshead Revisited*. A surprisingly low score also attaches to religious tracts: you would be amazed how many ordinary looking blokes

FIRST PERSON

Nigel Andrew

are quietly acquainting themselves with the latest on the Second Coming.

A good deal of language learning goes on in trains which accounts for many, but by no means all, of those readers who appear to be talking to themselves. Foreign language books score quite high, especially those in unfamiliar scripts: a Japanese book, for example, is quite a rarity, as the Japanese, like the Italians, seem only to read magazines.

There was one middle-aged man with business suit and briefcase, reading something with evident pleasure and absorption - but what? I could not get a peep, manoeuvre as I may, though some instinct told me I was on to a winner. Eventually, as he prepared to get off the train at West Croydon, the moment of illumination came. It was *The Consolation of Philosophy* (Penguin Classics edition). A clear 50 points, I even in translation. And then there was Xenophon alighting at Thornton Heath - or Probst running for the train at Balham in a vibrant lumberjack shirt.

The hobby is now set to enter a new phase, with the coming of the "personal stereo". Increasing numbers of rail travellers now come equipped with little headsets, and some of these sensation-seekers go so far as to read a book while listening to music. So the next step, the advanced form of the game is clearly going to be to identify both book and music. There will be extra points awarded for bizarre combinations - Mickey Spillane and Vivaldi; from Malden and Jane Austen; Schopenhauer and George Formby. Biblioscopy is here facing its ultimate challenge.

Knowing when not to notice

In bed with *fin*, I have come across the man of my dreams. His name is Charles Ritchie and I met up with him in the pages of Victoria Glendinning's biography of Elizabeth Bowen.

The perfect book to lift spirits cast down by Lemip and wads of tissues piled up like soggy pyrotechnics.

What makes Charles Ritchie so special is not so much his love for Miss Bowen, since her appeal was widespread, but the fact that he noticed and remembered the clothes she wore. Here are two of his diary entries: "Elizabeth came to tea in her smart black coat with a pink flower in her button-hole..." She had on her gold chains and bangles. "Elizabeth was wearing a necklace and bracelet of gold and red of the kind of glass that Christmas tree ornaments are made of..." She had on a white silk jacket over a black dress. In case you are wondering, the writer of these diaries wasn't a hairdresser or interior designer but a Canadian diplomat.

Outside the pages of books I have never met a man whose eye registered and recorded what a particular woman was wearing at any one time.

Even men who move in ritzy haute couture circles report back that the Princess of Wales had on "some long white thing" (a bedsheet?) while Joan Collins had chosen something "black and sort of shiny" (a dashin liner?). My very own husband never notices what I wear until it is worn to a rag, at which point he asks accusingly, "Is that new?" The only dress of mine which he finds disturbing is one with raised seams on the outside. When I wear it, he follows me around explaining that it's meant to look like that, so that his friends won't think he's daft enough to have married a woman who puts her frocks on inside out.

I know another man who doesn't know much about



PENNY
PERRICK

fashion, but knows what he doesn't like. If you happen to be wearing it, he will take you to lunch only in the dimmest corners of the dreariest restaurants. Since this is not nearly as much fun as being taken to the Connaught, I have, over the years, discarded several items that made him grind his teeth, including a very useful grey wool test dress which would be perfect for having the *fin* in right now.

The mystery is that this man's wife is the worst dressed woman in the world, devoted to those stiff frockies which usually are seen only on dolls that cover the lavatory-roll holders in old-fashioned seaside boarding-houses.

Either love is blind or when he takes her out he tips the head-waiter to lead him to a table screened by a pillar and several potted palms.

If Charles Ritchie were to step out of the pages of a book and into real life, I am not sure that my hero-worship of him would survive. For men who trespass into a feminine world often make me feel dislocated, uncomfortable in their presence.

I like to kid myself that there is some sort of womanly mystique attached to some of my more fluffily-minded pastimes:

choosing the bathroom tiles, arranging tulips in a jug, designing my own tapestries. I do not like it when a man turns out to be far abler than I at turning a house into a home or knows his way around polystyrene flower-arranging blocks.

I react churlishly when a man follows me into the kitchen intent on discussing the merits of flat rather than curly parsley. I feel that I have been rumbled, put to the test. "This isn't the sort of conversation suitable for mixed company", I snap and angrily chop some of my finger into the wrong kind of parsley.

So I hope Charles Ritchie kept his observations on Elizabeth's clothes to himself and his diary. Had he said: "So clever of you, Elizabeth darling, to have converted your old Christmas tree ornaments into a necklace and bracelet", the spell between them would surely have been broken.

There is now a vicious new New York version of the kismetogram. For \$150, you can hire an actress called Cynthia Busbee, bewigged and made-up in the Marilyn Monroe mould, to wiggle into a party and cause deep embarrassment. Miss Busbee walks up to the host, takes a ring out of her pocket and tells him, in earshot of practically everybody, that he left it in her apartment a little while ago. So far, her routine has not caused any heart attacks or divorce proceedings. In fact, she could prove a blessing to wayward business men. For if a lady who isn't Miss Busbee grows a little familiar with a gentleman in the presence of his wife, he will be able to say that he has never seen her before and it's his guess that his colleagues rented her for the evening for \$150 and a bit of a laugh.

*Elizabeth Bowen by Victoria Glendinning. Published by Penguin at £3.95.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Factor of 1,000

How far would the Cabinet have gone to recapture the Falklands? No further, it transpires, than the loss of 1,000 men. This I learn from a single sentence, attributed to "private information", in an updated history of the Conservative Party by Lord Blake, Provost of Queens College, Oxford, due out in May. Lord Blake was no more forthcoming on the telephone. Yes, he knows the figure is correct. Yes, it surprises him: "I'd have thought they would have been prepared to lose a good deal more." No, he did not know what would have happened had the figure been reached. (260 men were killed). Labour MP Tam Dalyell plans to draw attention to the figure with its implications for Britain's commitment to the Falklands during Thursday's Commons debate on the island's future. He believes it represents not the point at which the Cabinet would have found the losses unacceptable so much as that at which public support for despatching the task force would have begun to evaporate. Had Argentina shells been properly fused, it might have been reached very quickly, he points out: as it might yet be should Argentina, humiliated but better armed, be rash enough to attack again.

By proxy

It seems that Neil Kinnock is not the only political leader to have endorsed Lord Tonnypandy's memoirs without having read them (PHS last Friday). I now learn that at the publishers' request, David Steel sent a note saying: "These memoirs bear the firm imprint of all that his fellow MPs came to love about George Thomas: his warmth, his wit, his strongly-held Methodist beliefs, his down to earth manner, and above all his overriding sense of fairness." Er, no, he hadn't read them either, admits an assistant. "But the person who wrote it had."

Girlpower

Magicians, taxidermists, private detectives and kisserom girls, yes; nude models, no. An internal Manpower Services Commission memo lists "unacceptable" businesses that the unemployed should not be encouraged to start up with £40-a-week MSC grants. These include such entrepreneurial growth areas as gambling, faith-healing, pornography and "sex". Model agencies must therefore promise there will be no saucy poses and - following police investigations into one grant-holder - escort agencies must solemnly swear to be no more than that.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's for my teacher: will it last?"

Of course

On February 22 the banner headline of Ken Livingstone's *Labour Herald* pronounced: "Call on TUC to mobilize unions: Take Action for the NUM." Two weeks provides plenty of hindsight. The post mortem on the miners' strike, the latest *Herald* pontificates: "All too often the Left was reduced to calling on the TUC to take action, knowing very well that they would not do so."

Norman Tebbit has certainly recovered. He told a dinner given by Industry in Parliament "Trust me, I will be back" last week that he still awaits a cheque from Marks and Spencer for advertising their pyjamas on television - "even though they may not have been perfectly modelled".

Tomb with a view

Thanks to the People's Republic of China, Britons may for a little while yet continue to visit Highgate cemetery and Marx's tomb free of charge. The impoverished Friends of Highgate Cemetery, who have been struggling to avoid the imposition of an entrance fee, have just received an unsolicited cheque for £2,000 from the Chinese embassy. This definitely makes Peking more Marxist-than-thou. Moscow has not only given nothing: Mikhail Gorbachev even cried off his scheduled pilgrimage to the tomb when he visited Britain in December.

Not so tart

Ariel Sharon, the former Israeli defence minister, claims that he has a higher view of English green-grocers than I reported last month: far from attacking a Kensington fruit stall holder for the absence of Israeli produce, he was delighted to see so much on display. He also, incidentally, has firmly denied my story that he had come to Britain to discuss his libel suit against *Time* magazine.

PHS

Care for the family, Mr Lawson

by Michael O'Higgins

There is a contradiction between the Government's professed commitment to the family and the continuing decline in the relative living standards of those with children. For example, the proportion of children living in the bottom 20 per cent of households has doubled in recent years and on some measures these families are now almost as likely as pensioners to be in poverty.

Parliament has legislated to improve the position of the new cohorts of pensioners, but little relief seems in prospect for families - and certainly not from the present Chancellor.

This may seem a curious conclusion, particularly since simultaneous poverty and taxation on families is one of the factors motivating Mr Lawson's desire to reform the tax system. But as things stand, families can be helped only by a real increase in the value of child benefit, and this is not on the political agenda. Because it involves public expenditure the Government considers it bad by definition. It is also regarded as inefficient, going to rich and poor families alike (a form of inefficiency which appears to be less seriously regarded if it relates to tax relief on mortgages, for instance).

The Government's priorities, as reiterated in the recently-published expenditure plans, are clear if

somewhat unrealistic. Real public expenditure must be cut by more than £2 billion by 1987/8 to enable the Chancellor to make tax cuts (before the mid-1987 election?) without upsetting his PSBR targets.

The cut to which the Chancellor appears most attached - raising the tax threshold for single people and married couples - would do little to alleviate poverty, as the Institute for Fiscal Studies has demonstrated, because most of those to benefit would be young single people and second earners in non-poor households. Although families would benefit from such relief they would do so only to the same extent as couples without children, who on average are significantly better-off.

The current system of taxation, and of tax relief, therefore does not permit resources to be specifically directed at families. The means of doing so through cash benefits does not meet the Government's concept of a tax cut.

The source of this problem was identified, though not acted upon, by Sir Geoffrey Howe when he was Chancellor: the abolition of child tax reliefs during the late 1970s. He speculated that had those reliefs still existed, they might have been the beneficiaries of much of the

Government's tax-cutting ardour. In their absence the Government cannot direct tax cuts to families. So why not restore family tax benefits?

The old child tax reliefs were unfair on two counts - they did not benefit those too poor to pay tax, and they provided greater benefits to those on higher incomes paying the higher rates of tax. Neither is an inevitable feature of a tax benefit if it is paid as a credit. A tax credit for children is equivalent to granting relief at the standard rate of tax, so all taxpayers receive an equal benefit.

What about those too poor to pay tax? There are very few working families in this position: between 80 and 90 per cent of children are in tax-paying households which would benefit immediately from such a credit.

Clearly it would be unfair to the remaining children, and their parents, to restrict the benefit to taxpayers, but this group could also be helped. If the Chancellor were to contemplate a small increase in spending, the credit could be made payable as a cash credit to non-taxpayers. For those totally out of work - the long-term unemployed, many single parents - this would simply enhance existing benefits. If

the recipient returned to work the same relief would continue to be payable, albeit as a tax credit.

For those who become unemployed during the year, or the few non-tax-paying poor working families, a more complex interim scheme could be needed. Alternatively they could be entitled to a tax credit payment at the end of the tax year.

All this may seem imperfect. There is no economic difference between child benefit and a child tax credit, as any random 365 economists will tell you, so would it not be simpler to pay higher child benefits? After all, tax credits would not necessarily go to the parent with the most direct caring responsibility; child benefit does. Since, however, the Government thinks there is a difference between a tax relief and a benefit payment, and since the Chancellor is not going to increase the real value of child benefits, these are not really the relevant issues.

The basic question is whether child tax credits are preferable to tax relief for single people and couples without children; the answer is that such credits would allow the Chancellor to meet his political objectives while doing more to help families than any other way of distributing the tax cuts. So, why not cut taxes as social policy?

The author is a Reader in Social Policy at the University of Bath.

Iain Elliot on a little-known side of the Soviet peace offensive

Reading, writing and rifle drill

The tragic death of a young Soviet teacher killed protecting his pupils from the blast of a hand grenade in the confines of a crowded classroom, dramatically publicizes a subject which deserves much greater attention. Why does the Soviet leadership devote scarce educational resources to basic military training, a compulsory part of the curriculum which goes far beyond what the OTC offers pupils in a few British schools?

The explosion in Middle School No 2 shattered the peace of cold, bright morning in the small Ukrainian town of Ivanich. The teacher, reserve officer Yuri Lelyukov, was demonstrating to 26 children how to prime what he thought was a harmless practice grenade. When he pulled the safety ring and released the detonator lever a sudden wisp of smoke showed that he held a live grenade which would explode in exactly four seconds.

Should he fling it through the window? Down in the school yard he could see a class of six-year-olds going for lunch. Into the corridor? The school was so crowded that there were desks with children there too. He strode to the far corner of the classroom, where he crouched down with his back to the class, clutching the grenade firmly to his stomach.

Senior Lieutenant Lelyukov was a graduate of a KGB border guards college in Moscow, and his greatest ambition was to return to active service. He left a wife and young child. The newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported that by decision of a military tribunal those responsible for letting a live grenade turn up among a batch of practice models were severely punished for their "criminal negligence".

Boys are told that they should be proud to serve in the ranks of the armed forces which liberated Europe in the war against Nazi Germany, and which are quite different from the armies of capitalist countries that serve the interests of the ruling exploiters. "With phrases about faithfully serving God and fatherland, the imperialists mask the plundering, aggressive aims of their policies and the essentially anti-popular nature of their armies".

The manual proceeds to cover in considerable detail most aspects of military science, from tactics to weapons drill, showing the parts and assembly of hand grenades, Kalashnikov machineguns and other means of eliminating the enemy down to the simple bayonet and rifle butt. If the young soldier notices the flash of a nuclear explosion while



Surviving a nuclear attack: useful tips for the classroom cannon fodder: right, another military manual in general use in Soviet schools

advancing against the enemy, he should lie down with feet to the explosion, availing himself of any natural cover.

In addition, you should turn up your greatcoat collar and protect your hands under yourself. To avoid losing your sight, cover your face well. Immediately after the shock wave passes you must at once get up and continue to carry out your military mission.

Many Russians, remembering the terrible casualties suffered in the last war and aware of the growing number of young men killed or maimed in Afghanistan, strongly oppose the regime's use of education for military training. The teachers' newspaper *Uchitskaya Gazeta* even published a poem telling children to throw away their guns and play no more at war. But this was severely criticized in the Ministry of Defence newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, which repeatedly extols the virtues of military-patriotic education in preparing schoolboys for their two or three years of compulsory national service.

The school textbook *Basic Military Training* edited by a general, is published in millions of copies and used throughout the USSR. The introduction warns children to

beware of the aggressive intentions of Nato and inculcates "hatred for the enemies of socialism". It states: "The imperialists continue preparations for unleashing a new world war, first and foremost against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries... This war, in its essence and political content, will be the decisive armed conflict of the two opposing world systems. It will demand from all participants colossal effort from all their forces and vast casualties on an unprecedented scale. Soviet soldiers will be required to show exceptionally high political and military qualities, unshakable determination, self-sacrifice and the will for victory."

Of course there are many Soviet schoolchildren who privately express some scepticism about the effectiveness of this and other suggestions for civil defence in the event of nuclear war. They joke that all you can do is wrap yourself in a shroud and crawl to the nearest cemetery. But the chapters in the textbook on constructing fall-out shelters or on protective clothing, gas masks and detection equipment for chemical and bacteriological warfare are written with deadly serious intent.

Marks for basic military training are included in the annual report along with more normal subjects. This deliberate indoctrination of Soviet children is another useful method of instilling habits of obedience to party control.



Surviving a nuclear attack: useful tips for the classroom cannon fodder: right, another military manual in general use in Soviet schools

The chief political directorate of the Soviet armed forces pays great attention to military-patriotic education; the soldiers now carrying out orders and committing atrocities in Afghanistan began playing serious war games with their first steps in education.

As Professor Lev Yudovich, pointed out in the London newsletter *Soviet Analyst*, this trend has intensified recently, with the establishment of special boarding schools to prepare children exclusively for military colleges.

Museums of military glory have been opened in many schools, and in Leningrad, for example, the first lesson of the teaching year is devoted to military courage, with veterans coming in to share their experiences. The pupils in each school are divided into battalions, platoons and sections; commanders are chosen and each battalion has its flag. Military games and competitions continue even in the summer holiday camps, but are not usually shown to western visitors.

A scene that could soon fail to shock

Johannesburg. The Market Theatre in Johannesburg, a small avant-garde playhouse which courageously explores the frontiers of South African government tolerance, is currently enjoying a box-office success with Strindberg's turn-of-the-century melodrama *Miss Julie*, in which an upper-class lady causes a scandal by seducing the family manservant.

There would be nothing especially remarkable about this revival of a period piece were it not that it has been given a South African setting, and the manservant, accordingly, is played by a black actor, John Kani. The white actress who plays Miss Julie, Sandra Prinsloo, has been the target of poison pen letters, obscene phone calls and vicious attacks in the right-wing press.

The racial prejudice which the play affronts has for many years been enshrined in South African law, which, among other things, prohibits sexual relations, in or out of marriage, between white and black. Yet even as the play began its opening run in Cape Town last month, moves to repeal this offensive legislation were being initiated in the new multi-racial parliament of whites, Indians and Coloureds.

Miscegenation, as the existence of the mixed-race Coloureds attests, was widespread for at least 150 years after white settlers arrived at the Cape in 1652. Although children born out of wedlock were generally not regarded as white, there were many early marriages between white settlers and local Hottentots, or imported Indian, African and Malay slaves whose offspring were assimilated into white society.

The myth of white racial purity has been definitively exploded in a new book by an Afrikaner historian,

Dr Hans Heese, who has spent some years studying the genealogy of the pre-1800 Dutch, German and French settlers who form the main ingredients of the Afrikaner people. In an appendix he lists more than 1,000 well-known Afrikaner names, from Botha to Treurnicht, borne by early settlers who either married or had sexual liaisons across the colour line.

No less unsettling for right-wingers, who pretend that miscegenation was mainly the work of passing sailors, was a recent programme about the sex laws on the Afrikaans channel of South African television, whose output is closely vetted by the government. In it speaker after speaker conceded that Afrikaners were not a pure white race, and that some of the most revered figures in Afrikaner history, such as Paul Kruger, president of the Transvaal republic at the time of the Boer War - were of mixed descent.

Such frankness on a sensitive and hitherto taboo subject - no thunderbolts came down to strike the makers of the programme deal - is encouraging evidence that white public opinion is being prepared for abolition of the sex laws, possibly before the end of the year.

The Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, which forbids marriage between "a European and a non-European" was passed in 1949, the first important piece of legislation to be introduced by the openly racist National Party after its defeat of General Jan Smuts's more moderate United Party in 1948.



Sandra Prinsloo and John Kani in the South African "Miss Julie"

Coloureds or Indians. Sexual relations between members of the different non-white groups have never been forbidden.

The number of marriages between whites and other races immediately before 1949 was not high - fewer than 100 a year. Nationalists, however, appear to have been obsessed by the fear that the racial identity of whites was threatened by "infiltration" by Coloureds, who range from very black to almost white, and who generally share the

Afrikaners' language and religion as well as their blood.

Over the years the authorities have pursued infringements of the Immorality Act with declining zeal. In the 1960s more than 600 people a year were prosecuted. Last year the figure was 160, of whom 114 were convicted. Sentences are usually light, despite a maximum possible penalty of seven years in jail, but the social disgrace is great, and not a few whites have committed suicide rather than face imprisonment.

Aside from the great symbolic impact of repealing the sex laws, and thus admitting that racial boundaries are no longer inviolate, there would be intriguing practical implications: a white man married an African woman, their children, under South African law, would be Coloured, and the family would fall into three different race categories.

Quite apart from the fact that each member of the family would enjoy different political rights, they would, as things stand, be unable to live in the same area, go to the same hospitals, travel on the same trains and (in most places) buses, go to the same cinemas or (with few exceptions) theatres, sit together in most beaches, eat together in most restaurants or stay together in most hotels.

The repulsive effect of repeal of the sex laws on other legislation causing the government to drag its feet. There is strong pressure for repeal, however, from liberal whites, the Coloured and Indian parliamentary chambers, and all the churches, other than the white Dutch Reformed Church. President Botha has himself said the law is no longer necessary. If they are not abolished his reformist credentials will be in tatters.

Michael Hornsby

Anne Sofer

From the GLC front line

County Hall, Sunday
I write from the trenches. The battle to set a legal budget for Greater London rages around me, and worn out by days (and good parts of nights as well) of deafening polemic and pomposity, of posturing, propaganda and plain pig-headedness, I no longer know who is winning. I hope that by tomorrow morning, when I am safely sleeping off the fumes of smoke-filled rooms, poisonous recriminations and nasty payers' whisky, you will pick up your copy of *The Times* and read in a quiet, non-committal paragraph on another page that the GLC at 11.59 - one minute before its legal deadline - set a precept. But my confidence is waning.

Chaos reigns. For a start, we no longer have a majority party in the council chamber. The Labour Party is supposed to occupy this position, but it can no longer agree on anything. And I mean anything: whether or not to stop for a meal; whether or not to go home to bed; whether or not to set up a committee and if so who should be in the chair; whether or not what some propose to do is legal; who should move it or second it - and, finally, whether or not to set a precept.

On all of these we have had argument and votes and shouting and rows - aided and abetted by teams of observers in the public gallery (or possibly the same group, with the most remarkable staying power) who shout "Hypocrite", "Scab", "Sell-out", "Traitors", and similar startlingly original insults at the appropriate moments.

From time to time front-bench Labour members rush out to give interviews on radio and television repudiating the treachery of their colleagues. Livingstone is betraying the Labour movement," intones his deputy, John McDonnell. "John McDonnell will never be forgiven by the people of London until the day he dies", Livingstone snarls back.

Fundamental to an understanding of what is going on are three facts: ● The selection of parliamentary candidates is going on in constituency Labour parties all over London.

● A certificate of law-breaking is required of any applicant for the shortest being arrested on a picket line is good, but voting against the making of a legal precept is better.

● If a precept is not made, all those responsible are likely to be disqualified from public office (as well as bankrupted) - so the trick is to vote illegally but get defeated. This requires some nimble footwork.

Until a week or two ago it looked as if it would all work like clockwork. The Tories and the Alliance would move alternative budgets, of course; but, having been defeated, would allow through a legal budget from the Labour right wing. However, things are now going badly wrong, largely because Livingstone, undoubtedly a clever politician, is trying to be too clever, he is trying to contrive not only

that he will get his law-breaker's certificate (without having to pay for it), but also that the budget that is eventually passed by the legal members of the council gives him total freedom of action next year.

He has persuaded the legal wing of his Labour group to accept a document widely known as the Reg Race Budget - called after its creator, the former left-wing Labour MP, now on the council's payroll. This is a magic document, which one is permitted to call "legal" or "illegal" at will. Livingstone himself says it is illegal - a "deficit budget" which sets council spending way above its income. And, certainly that's what it looks like.

The legal wing stop their ears to this talk. They have been assured that it is legal. They have been to no less a person than Mr. Roger Henderson QC, who says it is legal. It is legal because it adopts a "mechanism" for ensuring "financial discipline". A new super-committee to vet all spending plans will be established to "reconcile" the budget with the precept.

And who will chair this powerful body? The leader of the council, of course, the very person who has publicly and repeatedly pledged to undertake no such reconciliation. Some legality. Certainly too much for anyone outside that bamboozled group of fall-guys - the Labour centre-right - to swallow. Meanwhile, the true, the pure, the shining ultra-left see it all as counter-revolution, and are turning against their hero.

At the beginning of the meeting this was the line-up: 15 clinging stubbornly to the revolutionary "No rate" solution; 35 or so for the legal/illegal optical illusion; three for a generous (and firmly legal) Alliance budget; 39 for a tough Tory one; one maverick Tory yet to declare his hand, and another shooting game in India.

Tories and Alliance alike had shown a willingness to compromise, but Labour members are frozen into their respective minority postures - "No rates" on the one hand; "No less than the maximum" on the other. Because neither will compromise, the extraordinary likelihood now is that the rate will eventually be set below Patrick Jenkin's maximum. If not that, there will be indeed no rate at all.

Whatever the outcome, the effect of the long-running row on the Labour Party in London probably cannot be over-estimated. The bitterness, the intransigence, the screaming matches - "You bitch, you cow" hurled from one Labour woman councillor to another - have disgraced and embarrassed some of the number. Others are so disillusioned that they are almost pleased to see their sentiments vindicated. One publicly declared that "the language of politics has been completely devalued". That must be the understatement of the last four years.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/LEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington

Down at the Old Ron and Bush

Since speculating recently on why normal decent British pubs have started to disappear under grandiose themes, cocktail neon, deafening disco decor, and so on, I have received a varied and interesting mailbag. Here are some of the best letters.

From Sidney Greenpeace
Sir, I can report a very curious experience indeed from my local. The Dog and Three Jolly Referees, as it used to be called. Last week it was transformed into one of these theme pubs. "The Captain Scott Arms" based on the Captain Scott legend. I was sitting in the corner minding my own business, drinking a Snowball and tucking into a wholemeal pie and a packet of husky-flavoured crisps, my mittened hands held out piteously to the one small heater in the middle of the floor, when all of a sudden a bloke in a suit came in and started tearing down the Union Jack and the picture of Queen Victoria hanging on the wall.

"What are you doing that for?" I said.

"We're changing the theme," he said. "Business is too slow at the South Pole. This place is called The Old Mountbatten now."

And before my very eyes a gang of interior decorators burst in and turned the place into an Indian palace, with red blobs of beet juice all over the floor. They renamed one room Hindu Bar and another Muslim Bar, and before you knew where you were there was an almighty fight going on. I got out pretty quick, I can tell you.

yours etc

From Kevin Highgrass
Sir, I found myself standing in a modern disco-pub the other night next to a famous footballer. So I said to him I thought he'd played a good game on Saturday. "Thanks, mate," he said. "I'll have a Tequila Sunrise." I explained, somewhat nervously, that I couldn't really afford a cocktail. "Thanks, mate," he said again. "I'll have a Tequila Sunrise." I looked closer and realized he was a life-size, motorized dummy with a recording device. The barman admitted that, unable to lure soccer stars, the brewery had started installing fake ones. Can this be right?

yours etc

From Sir Archibald Likely
Sir, While standing in a Whitehall pub the other evening, the barman... No, sorry, got the grammar wrong there. While I was standing in a Whitehall pub, the barman took

out a tape from the background music machine and inserted another one. To our amazement a familiar voice came out, saying: "Michael Heseltine here. Look I'm planning another dawn raid soon..."

"Blimey," said the barman, "that must be the tape the M5 man thought he'd left in here last night. He went frantic when he couldn't find it."

"I'm not surprised," I said. "Sounds as if they've been tapping Mr Heseltine's phone."

"Well," said the barman, "just goes to show that it's not just the loonies on the left they're keeping an eye on."

Many a true word... yours faithfully

From Mrs Arthur Wally
Sir, I've always wanted to start a frivolous correspondence in *The Times*, and I thought one topic might be pub tables with one leg shorter than the others. Readers might write in with suggestions as to how to prop them up. I've rolled up crisp packets, or pickled onions, or those pennies they're always piling up for charity. No? Oh, well, never mind.

yours etc

From Konstantin Chernenko
Sir, What with running a country and not being in the best of health, I don't get out and about much, but the previous letter reminded me of a very happy six months spent in London as member of a trade mission of passing on secrets was to leave them in a folded beer mat up under the short leg of a pub table, as no one ever tampered with them.

In fact, one message I left in The Marquis of Granby was, through some oversight, never picked up. An agent of mine found it there, still twenty years later. Of course, leaks about the Suez invasion weren't much good to us in 1976, but it just goes to show.

yours etc

From the late Arthur Koestler
Hello! Yes, it's me, Arthur Koestler! Yes, there really is an after-life and let me tell you something, they never close up here. At my local, the Apoecypha Arms, they serve ambrosia and nectar round the clock. Ambrosia, Flizzy, bland stuff it is too. But the Champagne for Real! Ambrosia is pressed hard for pip pip pip pip pip, that's my last 10p piece but I'll be in touch. (This correspondence is now closed.)

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HELP WANTED: AFRICA

Thirty-six years ago President Truman in his Point Four programme pledged the resources and technology of the developed world to relieve poverty in what came to be called the Third World. Today, after hundreds of billions of dollars have been invested to that aim, an emergency conference of the United Nations convenes in Geneva to raise up to 4 billion dollars for drought and famine relief in Africa. What has gone wrong? It cannot all be put down to the weather. Nor, for that matter, can the long-term answer lie in a new type of colonialism in Africa. Yet those who were foremost in their agitation to wind up the European colonial empires in Africa now seem to be the most dedicated to some kind of second wave of colonialism, with Europeans deciding what is best for Africans to save them from themselves.

The reaction to Africa's present emergency has thrown up any number of contradictions of this kind. It is hard to disentangle them, yet it is important to do so since, though the immediate need is to respond as fully as possible to a cry of help, a full understanding of the historical background to this disaster is necessary. Otherwise our short-term response will simply become an open-ended attempt to mitigate suffering which, to a large extent, has been caused by human agency and human decisions. Unless we identify those human causes of this disaster and take what action we can either to prevent them, or at least not to assist in their recurrence, the relief exercise will ultimately get nowhere and the emotional impact of refugees and starvation on our television screen will gradually recede.

Take the question of refugees. Refugees threaten to overwhelm Sudan. International assistance is necessary. The refugees, in their hundreds of thousands, have come to Sudan to escape persecution in their own homes from their own governments, Sudan's neighbours. Yet those same governments are receiving official assistance from the very nations which are now called upon to help Sudan pay for administering the refugees.

The western world subsidized

the Ethiopian Government with one billion dollars between 1974 and 1982. No questions were asked about Ethiopia's internal policies. The Dergue continued to victimize its citizens, and concentrate more on waging a civil war than on furthering policies of self-sufficiency in food, or applying this international assistance to other long-term programmes.

Take food production. The 20 African countries which are now on the verge of famine, have all received vast quantities of international aid. Much of it has been squandered on prestige projects or diverted to ill-fated attempts at industrialization instead of developing self-sufficiency in food by careful agrarian policies.

If the underlying purpose of internationally financed foreign aid has been to relieve poverty, one would expect the recipient governments to have developed some machinery for distributing this financial assistance to their people. No such machinery exists. Only now, when the follies of a generation are exposed, is there some belated attempt at revision of their economic policies. This is recognized by the World Bank in its "joint programme of action" for developing sub-Saharan Africa. But how far African recipient governments have really recanted, and how much the donor organizations have really mended their ways, has to be taken largely on trust. There is a danger that the incontrovertible nature of the present crisis will induce many participants at today's conference, and every other similar conference, to give African governments the benefit of the doubt which they do not deserve. In the face of an evident and immediate humanitarian requirement, there may be a tendency to sanction further large-scale investments on the same loose criteria which have coloured the past and resulted in such widespread failure to achieve the growth which is the original purpose.

The World Bank has had to channel its investments through governments and thus through the public sector with predictably unprofitable results and a cumulative politicization of economic life into the bargain. It

is now up to African governments and those donor agencies which are allowed to work through the private sector to see what they can do to repair the damage of the past.

Take population policies. The World Bank's annual development report devoted a major section to the question. Yet the statistical base for its projections is extraordinarily haphazard. On its own admission the World Bank recognizes that only 10 African countries have held censuses in the last five years, demographic surveys are not taken regularly, are only based on samples and have to be adjusted for suspected over-estimation or under-estimation on many occasions. The worst case is probably Chad, where the last census was conducted in 1964, was only a sample survey in rural areas and small urban areas, with a complete survey confined to large urban areas.

Africa's population is obviously growing too fast for the continent's capacity to sustain it but analysis of this crisis is not helped by extravagant use of such unreliable statistics.

Indeed the inaccuracy of African statistics is not just an academic point. Given the scale of international assistance to Africa over 30 years one would expect the donor agencies to have reliable machinery for assessing the general effects of their investments. They have not. The World Bank admits that national accounts for African countries are of poor quality, late in compilation and sometimes completely unavailable. The statistical work in Africa is still at a "formative stage" and yet the calculations of population, standard of living, economic growth and everything else are bandied about by the aid lobby as though they are holy writ whereas we can now see that, far from being holy writ, they are wholly unreliable.

At a time of crisis in Africa such criticisms of the general aid policy are not likely to be well received, but they will be amplified in further detail on these pages over the next few weeks. In order to invest constructively in Africa's future, African leaders and their friends in the west have to be honest about the failures of the past.

ROADBLOCKS ON THE LONG MARCH

The high-level Chinese delegation which arrived in Moscow last week is the latest in a series of political consultations aimed at improving relations. However, there are still significant obstacles on the uphill path to conciliation. Long-term disputes about the vast stretches of Chinese territory annexed by the tsars, and more recent ideological arguments over how best to build a communist society when its economic foundations are shaky, now seem less important than conflicts involving third countries.

Both China and the USSR wish to expand trade with the West and Japan, since they need infusions of high technology to modernize their industry. Moscow is much concerned that its rival's success in this respect will be even greater after the latest CoCom meeting in Paris. Officially the Co-ordinating Committee's embargo on exporting to communist countries any sophisticated military equipment with possible military applications should apply to China as much as to the USSR and its allies, but in practice requests for exceptions are much more likely to be

granted when the destination is China.

Moscow has protested strongly at Peking's growing military contacts with the United States as laying a basis for military co-operation against the USSR. The Chinese have offended Moscow in other ways too. They treat Comecon members not as a socialist community but as individual countries with a right to a separate role in world affairs, encouraging Romania, Hungary and even the GDR to decide their own paths. They argue that the Nato states should strengthen their defences against the Soviet threat. They offer themselves as the natural leaders of the developing world. And they refuse to overlook the "three main obstacles" - the invasion of Afghanistan, the build-up of Soviet troops on China's borders, especially in Mongolia, and Soviet support for Vietnam in its invasion of Kampuchea.

Although Sino-Soviet trade doubled last year, Moscow complains that it attained only a fifth of Chinese trade with the United States, and a tenth of that with Japan. China's hard cur-

rency is limited, and the USSR can supply less advanced but still very useful equipment and know-how, accepting goods in exchange. An important 1952 article marking the 35th anniversary of the February 1950 Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty deplored Peking's termination of the treaty and advocated the full normalization of relations. Yet it repeatedly attacked the Chinese, holding them solely responsible for the conflict between the two powers.

Any reduction in world tensions is welcome, despite Moscow's claim that "the imperialists feel uneasy" at renewed Sino-Soviet contacts. While the Soviet leaders continue to act in such a way as to threaten neighbouring states, it will remain in China's best strategic interests to preserve friendly relations with the West. The Chinese may be expanding economic co-operation with the USSR, but this is far from restoring the nightmare of a monolithic communist block dedicated to destroying the capitalist world. It was not quite monolithic even thirty years ago, and it is certainly not today.

TRANSFER TO PRODUCTIVITY

If ever a tax called for the attention of a Chancellor with reforming zeal, it is the Capital Transfer Tax. Introduced to replace estate duty, which had become virtually a voluntary tax, CTT has noticeably failed in its social objective of equalising wealth. Meanwhile it has done untold damage to family businesses; it has fallen below expectations as a source of government revenue, delivering no more than the product of a halfpenny rate of income tax; and it has spawned a large and ever-growing tax avoidance industry, to exploit the widening range of reliefs and invent new loopholes faster than the Inland Revenue can stop them up. As a result, it now matches the classic definition of a bad tax with high tax rates of up to 60 per cent, large scale avoidance and distortion of markets, a low yield and heavy costs of collection.

In principle, wealth beyond the ordinary needs of man provides a suitable base for taxation, most easily collected when it is transferred as a gift or passed on by death. In principle, also, taxation of inherited wealth should stimulate enterprise and stir the fabled idle rich to action.

In practice, the history of CTT suggests it has had generally bad economic effects.

Even before the tax reached the statute book, special reliefs had been granted to working farmers. When, even so, the tax showed signs of being effective, it rapidly became clear that it was killing an undergrowth of private and family businesses and the jobs and enterprise that went with them. More reliefs were progressively introduced for business assets and farming, making CTT, in turn, largely avoidable for those sufficiently keen on passing on their wealth to organize their assets and lifestyles in the bizarre ways necessary. The old rich have concentrated on their agricultural holdings while many a City magnate has donned gumboots, driving up the price of land.

The moderately affluent, on whom most of the burden of tax has fallen, are now catered for by avoidance schemes based on lifetime gifts up to the tax threshold, which are wiped clear after ten years, and more recently, delayed gifts valued at a discount.

There is a strong case, on economic grounds, for abolishing

capital transfer tax. That case would be overwhelming if the barriers to the creation of new wealth among the mass of ordinary people were lower and if some more economically rational means of tapping wealth to encourage productive use, or a tax on conspicuous consumption, could be devised.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor should certainly apply to CTT the same principles that he used in his last Budget to reform corporation tax. Instead of reliefs on up to half the value of certain assets, but not on others, he should halve the rates of tax payable at death for all, perhaps with milder cuts for the lower rates of tax now charged on lifetime transfers. The exemption for gifts of up to £3,000 a year could be raised considerably, while the definition of gifts could be tightened up and the ten year rule abolished to curb avoidance schemes. A simpler tax at much lower rates and fewer reliefs might well yield more revenue. It would also minimize tax-induced distortions to people's lives. But distortions will remain so long as we are more concerned with resenting wealth than creating and spreading it.

Immediate action to 'nail a lie'

From Mr Cecil Parkinson, MP for Hereford (Conservative)

Sir, On Tuesday I discovered Private Eye would be printing a lie about me and my secretary, Mrs Mathew.

I was advised that an injunction to prevent distribution would be an appropriate remedy. I sought and obtained the injunction within two and a half hours. It was confirmed in the High Court on Wednesday, the judge saying that there was a very strong prima facie case that the words were defamatory of myself and Mrs Mathew.

On Thursday Private Eye's appeal was dismissed unanimously by three judges in the Court of Appeal. Private Eye's own counsel admitted that the allegations were untrue and defamatory of me, and Lord Justice Ackner said that on any sensible reading of the article was seriously defamatory of Mrs Mathew.

Mr Steel (March 9) ignores the presence in this case of a third party who is not a public figure but a private citizen. He dismisses as "an unpleasant innuendo" a matter which is a down-right lie.

Without hearing the arguments he suggests that his view about the desirability of an injunction in this case is to be preferred to that of the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Mr Steel suggests that my action was evidence of a thin skin. It was in fact the most immediate and forthright way open to me of nailing a distressing lie.

Yours, CECIL PARKINSON, House of Commons, March 10.

Bid for Harrods

From Mr George Copeman

Sir, The Al-Fayed bid for House of Fraser (report, March 4), if successful will result in one of the best employee share schemes in Britain being destroyed, with 25,000 employees and ex-employees being paid off in cash or loan notes.

It will also cause the public listing of House of Fraser shares being abandoned, with the result that the ordinary British citizen will no longer be able to buy a stake in Harrods.

This is all in sad contrast to the privatisation programme which is creating millions of new shareholders, including employee shareholders. The Government is, for good reasons, proceeding with privatisation at considerable expense in launching fees, advertising costs, etc. yet this work is being undone by takeover bids.

Is it not time that we had, as a matter of public policy, a system for major companies similar to the control of export of works of art?

I submit that there ought to be power to require that when control of a substantial business changes hands any employee share scheme must be allowed to continue in operation and, where relevant to this, any public listing of the company's share capital. In such cases the controller's purchase would need to be limited to 75 per cent of the total share capital.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE COPEMAN, Moonraker, Batts Lane, Mare Hill, Pulborough, West Sussex, March 4.

Faces of terrorism

From Sir Jack Longland

Sir, Your leader, "Murder is murder" (March 2) affirms "that the principal totalitarian state, the Soviet Union, is also the principal supplier, sponsor and supporter of terrorism as a form of political action in the non-communist world." Fair enough, and we all applaud lustily. But what about the converse?

The United States is the principal supplier, sponsor and supporter of terrorism as a form of political action in the less than communist state of Nicaragua.

I diffidently suggest, Sir, that you undertake an intensive study of geese and ganders. For both the sauce is bitter.

Yours faithfully, JACK LONGLAND, Bridgeway, Bakewell, Derbyshire.

Back to the pits

From Mrs D. R. Millard

Sir, Have those churchmen in Scotland who have written to the *Wheeler* and the Government, urging them to offer an amnesty and forgiveness to those miners who have been convicted of theft, vandalism, and damage to people and property, written also to the NUM and the returning miners to show the same compassion to their colleagues who dared to exercise their right to work, thus earning the label of "scab"?

Or is it to remain that sons will continue to boast that they will never speak to their fathers again and that "once a scab, always a scab"?

Yours faithfully, MOLLY MILLARD, Mill Ford House, Hall Street, Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk.

The first cormorant?

From Mr G. H. Stevens

Sir, On February 28, at 9.25am, I observed a cormorant fishing in the River Thames, approximately 100 yards downstream of Vauxhall Bridge. To me that was far more exciting than hearing the first cuckoo in spring, whatever the date.

Yours faithfully, G. H. STEVENS, 43 Fox Hill, SE19, March 1

Need for check on BBC efficiency

From Mr Robert Sheldon, MP for Ashton-under-Lyne (Labour)

Sir, Your report yesterday (March 7) on the conflicting views emerging on the conclusions to be drawn from the report by consultants Peat Marwick on the BBC underlines an important constitutional issue.

Parliament will no doubt in due course be asked to decide on an increased licence fee, with apparently little reliable information on the real findings of a report specifically asked for by the Home Office to inform this very decision. This is not proper accountability.

Surely this strengthens the case for giving the Comptroller and Auditor General, as head of the National Audit Office, the necessary access to the BBC - and to other such bodies in receipt of massive public funds - to report to Parliament on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which those funds are being used.

The National Audit Office would then be responsible for setting the terms of reference for the enquiry and for determining the scope of the report, taking due account of commercially sensitive issues.

At the very least the National Audit Office should in this particular case be given the right to examine the consultants' findings independently and report its conclusions to Parliament.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT SHELDON, Chairman, Committee of Public Accounts, House of Commons, March 8.

Reduced funding for the National

From the Director of the National Theatre

Sir, In your parliamentary report on the recent Lords debate on the arts (March 7) Lord Gworie accused me and others of talking "irresponsible rubbish" by claiming that arts subsidies are being reduced. To make his point, he says that since 1978/79 there has been an increase in real terms of 18 per cent. But this statement completely fudges the issue.

The figure he quotes is in respect of all the arts right across the board. I and my theatre colleagues have been arguing the case for the performing arts only, whose grants in nearly every case have regularly fallen well below the level of inflation, with crippling effect.

In the same debate Lord Gworie said he knows many directors would be delighted to have the subsidy the NT gets. He has repeated this so many times now that he must consider it a powerful argument. It is of course a meaningless one.

Clearly our subsidy would be absurdly luxurious for most theatres. Equally clearly, chiefly because of

the expense of the building itself, it would not have been necessary to close the Cottesloe and make redundancies. As Lord Gworie knows, we are housed in probably the most costly theatre building in Europe. It is surely time the Government, who put it up, either came to terms with that fact or admitted that they cannot afford properly to fund us as we are presently constituted, and examined alternatives.

All agree that Britain's subsidised theatre is one of our great glories. It also yields back to the state far more money than is invested in it by the state. So while its health is seriously threatened by the withholding of relatively small injections of cash, I shall continue to speak out publicly on its behalf. This seems - to me at least - the most responsible thing I can do.

Yours faithfully, PETER HALL, Director, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 March 8.

From the director of Finance, BBC
Sir, Mr David Hewson, in his piece on Peat Marwick's "value for money" review of the BBC (March 8), mentions a Home Office view that the brief for the study meant it had "no bearing on the economics of the licence fee application." He then implies that Peat's terms of reference were so worded by the BBC as effectively to bar them from looking at manning levels and whether new technology was being used efficiently.

I must point out that the terms of reference were drawn up by the BBC in full consultation with both the Home Office and with Peat Marwick. Indeed the key sentence - "to ascertain and report on what reasonable expectations exist of the Corporation achieving economies through increased efficiency, while maintaining the range and quality of existing services" - was directly agreed with the Home Office and precisely met what they had asked me to do. All parties regarded such considerations as being at the very heart of the arguments for an increased licence fee.

As to Peat Marwick: they certainly had only a limited time in which to do their work. But I do not see how such words barred them from investigating any aspect of "value for money". Yours etc, GEOFF BUCK, Director of Finance, BBC, Broadcasting House, W1 March 8.

Such a development would still leave problems for relationships within the central core. Here it would give greater confidence if Civil Servants who are disturbed by what they experience could have direct and immediate access, not merely to permanent secretaries or the head of the Service, but to the Parliamentary Commissioner. This officer already has a link with a select committee of the House of Commons which might be used.

An appeal by this avenue would be thoroughly constitutional and would avoid the suspicion that old doctrines of unthinking loyalty and subservience to the rulers of the day can be used to cover somewhat cavalier behaviour, if not actual ministerial impropriety.

Yours faithfully, LEONARD TIVEY, The University of Birmingham, Department of Political Science and International Studies, Muihead Tower, Ring Road North, Birmingham, March 4.

expenditure would be under control - but it would be local control. But the financial system, though important, cannot be divorced from your remedy of the local ballot box. We need less power for politicians and officials at both central and local level. We need a system of local taxation and accountability which is fair and equitable to the voter and ratepayer and which is seen to be so, one which they can understand and use to influence the decisions taken by their councillor. They should feel able to do something in those cases where they are dissatisfied.

The aim of this Association is to increase control by those who elect their local representatives and pay the bill. Cannot *The Times* support this aim and be positive in encouraging a new look to find a better way ahead?

Yours etc, JOHN STEVENSON, Secretary, Association of County Councils, Eaton House, 66a Eaton Square, SW1 March 7

given a three-year tax exemption (but not the underlying land assessment). Result? Total property tax revenues increased by almost 50 per cent. New construction and rehabilitation of the three-year period averaged 38 per cent more than in the previous three-year period. When land is taxed more, an incentive is created for the owners to put their sites into good order and to provide a fuller use for the community. When buildings are taxed less it is easier for landowners to improve their sites.

Tax land values and we create the incentive for it to be used properly - and economic growth results. Yours faithfully, E. PENROSE, 34 Dorset Square, NW1 March 5.

From Mr E. Penrose
Sir, Your correspondent Mr John Hatherley (March 8), is rightly concerned about enterprise zones and the movement coming the way of the landowners. I would draw your readers' attention to what has been happening in the city of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, which depends heavily on the steel industry; unemployment has been far above the national average there with consequent depression and economic malaise.

However, in 1980 the city introduced a two-rate tax. It increased the tax rate on land from 2.4 per cent to 9 per cent. At the same time it decreased the tax rate on buildings from 2.43 per cent to 2 per cent. New construction was

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 11 1863

On May 7 1832, Greece was proclaimed an independent state under the protection of Britain, France and Russia, and Otto, son of the king of Bavaria, was made king. He was deposed in 1838 and a provisional government was formed. The people desired a constitutional monarchy on the lines of that of Britain and following a referendum, Prince Alfred, second son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert was elected. As Britain was one of the protecting powers he was unable to accept the crown which was then offered to Prince William George of Schleswig-Holstein, who, as George I, king of the Danes, began his reign in October 1863.

THE REVOLUTION IN GREECE

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

ATHENS, FEB. 27.

The army not being sufficiently in hand to take the oath on Sunday, that day was devoted by the Assembly to discuss a new form of government. As could have been foreseen before, a Provisional Government of three members has not been formed, and the idea which at first found few supporters was taken up again. It was to have no Provisional Government at all, and thus not to expose the Assembly again to come into a collision, but to elect seven Ministers and a President by open vote, each Minister for his own place, and responsible for it, and all the Ministers responsible as a body, and responsible for the integrity of the Assembly. The two parties - that is, Plain and Mountain - met for once and came to an understanding. All the leaders excluded themselves and combined to bring forward men unpolitical, but not too prominent.

The Ministry is called a transition Ministry; whether it will be so or not will depend a good deal on themselves. Its programme is short and unexceptionable. It may be summarised as maintenance of order and security, organization of the National Guard, amelioration of finance, and the speedy election of a King. The desire of the immense majority of the people could not have been embodied better. The only difficulty is to carry out the programme.

The National Guard... turned out in a body, doing all the services of police in the town, occupying the forts left by the soldiers, and furnishing numerous patrols by night and day. It is not best for their devotion, the disbanded soldiers might have done as they pleased, whereas, in spite of the general confusion little or no excesses have occurred. Here and there an okla of wine drunk and not paid for, or a scuffle in the streets, possibly aided by a dollar or two for his whisky; no entering of houses or breaking open of shops. The only exception was the Arsenal which was rifled of its contents.

But in order to make the National Guard thoroughly efficient a commander is absolutely required: whoever it is to be, he ought to be found soon, for military pronouncements having been tried by one party, there is no knowing why the other party, who had the worst of it at the time, should not try them likewise.

A King! A King! is the watchword of every one since the late lamentable events occurred, and every rumour which comes from abroad is eagerly caught up. The last is a Prince of Denmark, supported by France and England, but no official communication has been made either about this latter or any one else.

The Speaker's memoirs

From Mr Michael Foot, MP for Blaenau Gwent (Labour)

Sir, Permit me to reply to two of your correspondents (March 7). When Sir Charles Gordon, with all his experience, says that I am wrong to suggest that Mr Speaker Thomas usually accepted without question the advice given him by his officials, I naturally accept his statement. He is certainly an expert on that aspect of the subject.

However, he also adds, most intriguingly, that any later opinion he might form on a matter disputed to me would be conveyed only privately. I presume he might think that a similar discretion would be advisable for the Speaker himself.

A slightly different view was taken by a previous clerk, Sir Barnett Cocks. At a moment when one of Mr Speaker Thomas's most contentious rulings was being discussed, he, with all his experience, described that ruling as "a somewhat astonishing one." That was what I felt at the time, and I am sure Mr Barnett had ventured to give his views, and why I believed I was fully entitled to make representations, politely and privately, to Mr Speaker Thomas.

I doubt if I can help your other correspondent, Richard Moore who says that he cannot see the difference between what a Cabinet Minister, fully engaged in party controversies, may properly reveal and what Mr Speaker, who has pledged himself to impartiality and independence, may reveal. I would have thought the distinction easy enough to make.

It is my view - and I believe it is widely shared in the House of Commons - that if Viscount Tonypandy's example of disclosure were to be followed, the independence and authority of the Chair would be undermined. I want to stop that happening. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL FOOT, House of Commons, March 8.

From Mr Andrew F. A. Powles

Sir, May one humbly say to Lord Tonypan and Mr Michael Foot, through the courtesy of your columns - "Order Order!" Yours faithfully, ANDREW F. A. POWLES, Deans Farm Cottage, Arkesden, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Brave face on it

From Mr J. H. Dunlop

Sir, Over-60s are sublimed. Some are "wonderful", others are "wonderful", considering. Yours faithfully, J. H. DUNLOP, Corners, The Street, Igtham, Nr Sevenoaks Kent

THE ARTS

Robert Robinson writes the following prologue to the centenary history of OUDS, published this week An Oxford elegy for the comprehensiveness of drama

I remember it as always being dusk with a breeze lifting the notices on the walls of someone else's lodge, as you walked through the arch of the college under the yellow light which had just been turned on, and went up an alien staircase with the fatuous expectation of a punter entering a casino. The actual audition would have very little to do with dramatic skill, since it was, unlikely in the extreme that the aspiring undergraduate actually had any, or indeed if he displayed the faintest vestige of it, that his examiner (no less self-appointed than the candidate himself) would have recognized it. But what raised the hearts of both parties was the possibility that each would find the other's effrontery an endorsement of his own. It really couldn't have been otherwise, though the outcome of the encounter was seldom as symmetrical an exchange as took place when a man who had criticized my impure vowels ended by offering me the leading part in the play he was about to produce. Not until he led me to the door did I dimly fathom that one member of the walking-wounded had recognized another - "Don't worry about those vowels of yours," he said. "I'm sure they'll come along splendidly."

What joined us all was a common wish to shine, an acceptable motivation in the young, even though the desire would always outrun the performance. There is at this moment a lawyer on Highgate Hill whose desperate tottering, left and right (designed to indicate

the effect of heavy seas on a vessel about to founder), drew a wondrous hilarity out of lines Shakespeare couldn't have dreamt had a laugh in them; a marine insurer not a million miles from the Kingston By-pass who to this day does not know that his unique stiff-legged walk threw fresh light on one of the Bard's tragic heroes. In that the audience found itself preoccupied with the question, did he or did he not have a broomstick up each trouser leg, and a lady of mature years, long a pillar of the W in Sussex, who, draped in the usual sort of twentieth-century juvenile loads, was still able to hoist it up to her knicker-leg, withdraw a handkerchief (white samite, match), and sneeze into it as the hero carefully imitated himself on a rubber sword.

We expected much of our audiences, we put them to the test. When some of us exhumed a dreadful play by John Ford and staged it in Wadham garden, I do believe we really thought they would rise to their feet and cheer simply because this was the first performance the piece had received in four hundred years. Wading through the lustian like Burke and Hare, we took over three hours to reach the first interval, at which time it was clear that our own merciless solemnity had not been matched by the spectators, and chaps' own mothers and fathers who come up specially were seen peering away into the murk, never to return. Towards one o'clock in the

morning the curtain more or less came down, though by then the audience had been reduced to a few sports who afterwards frankly confessed they'd stayed on only to find out if Perkins Warbeck, the luckless hero (then clad in nothing but his stockings, and tied to a stake), could keep his face straight while his thighs underwent a severe tickling in the course of being clutched at by the kneeling heroine during the final twelve minutes of leaden apotrophe.

But there is nothing a determined narcissist will not endure. Shortly after my triumph as Perkins Warbeck, I was to be seen, naked save for a pair of shiny knickers, and covered in green scales, being poked across the Isis in a punt strewn with fairy-lights. Indefatigable attendance at auditions had secured for me the role of the River God, in a masque that had been written by a girl poet for the birthday of one of her chums. The entertainment was to be initiated by the vessel, with myself as its cargo, being shunted across the river to one of the college barges, on whose upper deck the audience was assembled. Things got off to a slowish start, for not only was the current running strongly but the oarsmen were drunk. Three times we bore down upon the barge and three times were swept past it. By the time the punt was suddenly twisting on its own axis in front of the barge, the audience lining the rails were crying with laughter, and though the poet's lines were well-turned I was fairly well-turned myself as I

delivered them, since, the punt revolving in one direction, I was obliged to revolve in the other. It was at this point that the first penny landed at my feet, one of the oarsmen tipped over into the briny, and both the poet and her friend were in floods of tears.

Perhaps it was the ornate, not to say rococo, location of the audience on that occasion that made me feel the real play was taking place offstage: the play that was disrupted did not disrupt the real play, of which the one you auditioned for was simply an ingredient - and on the night in question a pretty minor ingredient at that, with my green scales swathed in a handy raincoat, a bottle of South African sherry at my lips, and viewing the various tableaux vivants which had developed, I was able to judge. But carrying the thought a little further, I doubt if anyone who was a member of that OUDS party which toured *The Alchemist* and *King Lear* round the campuses of the Middle West so long ago could feel, either then or now, that the plays had a tenth the fictional power of the event itself - a power which sometimes seemed to seed itself within the performances as they were taking place.

For instance, how strange it was to be playing two parts simultaneously, that of the Duke of Burgundy and that of a man who has stuck his crown together with elastoplast and feels the gum melting under the heat of his head. I have written about this event, but even the act of writing it down has not exorcised my conviction that the

relationship between Lear and Cordelia cannot compare in intensity with those moments lived through by a man whose toy crown is creeping millimetre by millimetre down his skull. In this brief space of time it seemed to me that the entire apparatus of this production of *King Lear* had been brought into being simply so that, a short while after the play began, a fifteen-second micro-drama could develop, in which I was condemned to be the only actor. Lear grabbed me by the shoulder, we waltzed into the wings, but not before the crown had spun round my neck like a well-thrown horseshoe. It was as though the play of which mere plays were a simplified version had decided to sidle on stage for a moment, and show its strength.

And, perhaps naturally, it is fragments of this larger piece, this more comprehensive drama, which remain, while all the lines I ever merely learned are long gone and have left no trace behind them. What were the first words that Tybalt spoke? What was it Face began the proceedings with? Or Cassio, or Mephistopheles? Silence now, at any rate. But I still smell the dust hanging in the air of a deserted lecture-room, the syringa in a college garden where the words were spoken; footsteps, someone smiling, sighs and sounds which were unremarkable but are unforgettable, part of an entertainment in which there was no division into actor and audience, and for which no audition was required.

OUDS by Humphrey Carpenter, Oxford, £12.95



Sir Peter Parker, former Chairman of British Rail and a contemporary of Robert Robinson at Oxford, as King Lear in 1950

Concerts

BBC SO/Boulez Festival Hall/Radio 3

Now that conducting is once more a rare activity for Boulez, he has returned to the citadel of his repertory a quarter-century ago: his own music, and the choice of twentieth-century masterpieces on which that music is based and towards which it aspires. So it was on Friday. The first half of his concert was occupied by his own *Rituel*, the second by works which seemed to nestle around that piece: Stravinsky's similarly memorial, monumental *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, orchestral scores from the beginning and end of Webern's career, and Berg's *Three Pieces*. Op. 6, themselves directed towards a funeral march.

Each time one hears *Rituel* it seems to become more absolutely itself, more massive and implacable. This is not a matter of speed: Friday's performance was almost exactly the same in length as the one Boulez recorded with this orchestra more than eight years ago. What has happened in the interim is a growth in the weight with which the harmony is felt. The huge chorales placed through the work now seem to move still more inexorably towards their final chords in E flat, and somehow Boulez suppresses any potential liveliness in the intervening polyphonies to emphasize their solemnity and fixity.

It also appears that one hears more of the seven percussive time-keepers ticking away the seconds like a counterpoint of clocks. *Rituel* is like nothing else: it is not even much like the colossal movements of Messiaen, to which it has most frequently been compared. And yet the planning of this concert made it seem, not a little disturbingly, the very goal of music since before the First World War. Here were its brusque staccato chords, all three elder composers here its resolute group division of the orchestra in Stravinsky and late Webern, here the percussive skitterings of its second part in Berg. One almost shuddered each time that awful middle E flat came into prominence.

Perhaps the connection is closest in the Stravinsky, not only because Stravinsky's work, like Boulez's, was written in

remembrance of a fellow composer (Debussy, to his successor's Maderna), but also because *Rituel* can be seen as a gigantic offshoot from the piece Boulez offered to Stravinsky's memory: "...explosante-fixe...". Indeed, it is almost a realization of that malleable score, where again E flat is the focus for litany of repetition and cycles of change.

On this occasion, though, some accidents in the performance: it was in Webern that Boulez restored the rapport he enjoys with the BBC Symphony, drawing from them a *Passepied* of hectic tempo shifts and crystallized romantic warmth, and a *Variations* of proud character in all those gawky phrases. Finally the Berg pieces ended the concert with that sense of triumphant rediscovery peculiar to Boulez evenings. He has conducted this score dozens of times, and often more securely, but perhaps not so very often with such sensuality in the middle movement, or indeed such treble energy in the finale.

Paul Griffiths

London debuts

Two overseas pianists, unfortunately playing on the same evening, both displayed safe techniques in safe Romantic repertoire. The Dublin-born Leonora Carney gave the metre of Brahms's *Scherzo*, Op. 4, rather a bumpy ride, mainly because she over-lengthened each anacrusis in the trio; and the thick textures and rhythmic complexities of Brahms's *Variations*, Op. 21, were confused by too much indiscriminate pedalling. Both here and in Schumann's *Allegro*, Op. 8, however, she compensated with a pleasant, even touch and a lively interpretative awareness which a greater width of dynamic expression will only reinforce in future.

The German pianist Matthias Zimmermann played Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt in the Purcell Room, where one felt his big sound and grand approach was slightly cramped. The Purcell Room tends to favour an analytical listening experience rather than an emotional one: in such conditions it was impossible to ignore splashes of wrong notes that slightly marred the heroic *Fantasia* of his Chopin *F minor* *Fantasia*.

Still, he passed with distinction through that test of octaves, Liszt's "Dante" *Fantasia*, where his exquisitely controlled *trémolando* near the end was as effective as the granite-like strength he brought to the conclusion.

Richard Morrison



Passionate people rather than mere divas: Kathryn Harries (left), Suzanne Murphy

Dance

Unhappily costumed

Number Three
Covent Garden

Songs of a Wayfarer
Congress, Eastbourne

Here is a fine carry-on. Less than two weeks after the fiasco of *Ballet Imperial*, the Covent Garden management had to announce before Saturday night's premiere of *Number Three* that the choreographer, Michael Corder, was not happy about the costume designs by the American painter Helen Frankenthaler. Understandably, too.

The ballet is set to Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto (Elgar Howarth, conductor); Philip Gammon, soloist: a serviceable performance). Corder has described it as "a total music conception". That seems to mean 35 minutes of choreographic doodling to the music. In the first movement, Lesley Collier and Mark Silver, plus three soloists and seven supporting couples, skip about and kick their legs up. In the second, Bryony Brind bourrées around to interrupt the leading pair while three more couples teeter behind. Finally all the soloists plus an augmented ensemble gather in big formations, and do more energetic high-kicks to bring the curtain down.

Frankenthaler's backcloths, one for each movement, are big abstract paintings. First, a blue squiggly line and yellow, red and pink blobs. Mauve and grey are added for the next one and it is sometimes lit blue. The final movement has a red background, and among the yellow splotches I thought I recognized a peanut and a dog's bone, this latter perhaps explaining why the most prominent feature is a group of what look like great dollops of canine excrement.

Bravely, Corder has expressed "enormous enthusiasm" for these settings. The unlikely costumes are simply tights dabbed with colour, as if the designer had wiped off her brushes on the material. Corder has asked instead for plain

white costumes. He will get his wish tomorrow and on March 29: Frankenthaler's version will be shown on Thursday and April 1. A judgement of Solomon, indeed.

The evening began with a disastrous account of *The Firebird*. Marguerite Porter in the title part looked unwell, but there was no excuse for the underpowered dances of Koshchei's followers, or the innumerable dropped catches in the dance with the golden apples. Even Jiffi Kylians *Return to the Strange Land*, with a cast of six principals or soloists, rarely achieved more than a mediocre competence. This was also the only work all evening that was well lit. What is becoming of the Royal Ballet?

Festival Ballet's programme at Eastbourne on Friday was more encouraging. It included the company's premiere of Maurice Béjart's *Songs of a Wayfarer*, the two-man duet to Mahler's song-cycle created in 1971 for Nureyev and Bolzoli. To cast it for two more or less unknown young dancers is presumably a deliberate boast about Festival's growing strength on the male side. Craig Randolph and Darryl Norton dance with admirable clarity and strength, but more personality and dramatic nuance are needed to make the most of the work.

There was a new cast in the recently mounted *L'Arlesienne*. Matz Skoog's evident wholeheartedness cannot hide the fact that, having gone all out in the early solos, he lacks the reserves to produce extra power for the long final sequence of mounting frustration, and that slightly blunts the climax. Virginie Alberi, however, gives a sweetly sensitive account of the bride.

A new recruit, Alessandro Molin, formerly with Aterballetto in Reggio Emilia, was thrown in at the deep end, dancing both the *Don Quixote* *pas de deux* and one of the leads in *Etudes* because of another dancer's injury. Dancing both roles for the first time, he gave a resourceful, vigorous and unfettered account that promises well.

John Percival

The women come thrillingly into their own

Norma New Theatre, Cardiff

Anyone still ready to dub Bellini a composer of melancholic melodies should hasten to the Welsh National Opera's new *Norma* in Cardiff. The company uses the team responsible for the original and thought-provoking *Puritani* a couple of years ago at the same address: Andrei Serban and Michael Yeargan for the staging, Julian Smith in the pit and Suzanne Murphy as principal soprano. The *WNO Norma*, full of vigour and invention, musically thrilling, is if anything better.

The starting point for Serban's production is that *Norma* is a tale of two women: their rivalry, their passions and their mutual devotion. Norma, the high priestess of the Druids, and Adalgisa, the novice, are there on stage confronting each other during the overture as the full moon over Irminsul gradually becomes obscured. (After his

equally successful *Turandot* at Covent Garden, Serban is becoming something of a lunar expert.) And at the end they are linked hand in hand, in the shape of a cross, in the smoke of the funeral pyre. Pollione, the Roman pro-consul, past lover of one and would-be lover of the other, tries to join them but is held back.

This is a slight liberty taken by Serban with the instructions of Bellini's librettist, Romani, who has Norma and Pollione going together into the burning fiery furnace. But Serban has never been averse to the occasional liberty. He clearly sees the great Norma/Adalgisa duet, "Si fino all'ora" (the opera is sung in Italian), in which the two ladies pledge each other eternal support, as the core of the work. Men, notably the Druid Oroveso and the Roman Pollione, are unfeeling brutes.

Only the women, in this profeminist *Norma*, command sympathy and have true emotions. And so to Serban's

second statement: *Norma* (like *Aida* and several other operas) concerns the public face and the private grief, patriotism and love. To make the point Serban has the whole cast put on masks for public functions and remove them when they are telling the truth. The device has its clumsy moments and demands a lot from the singers, especially when they are in mid-aria. But it does allow Norma and Adalgisa to let their hair down quite literally - chestnut for the first and raven black for the second - when they are revealing their inmost secrets: it permits them too to be a pair of passionate women rather than a couple of operatic divas.

Not that there is anything second-rate about the singing. Suzanne Murphy's Norma, like the moon over Irminsul, had one or two cloudy moments, vocally. But for most of the evening it was thrillingly full-throated, lacking neither stamina nor the control for the start of "Casta Diva". Kathryn Harries's tone for Adalgisa was at times too open, but the

intensity of her stage presence, reacting to every change in Norma's situation, more than compensated. The two ladies spurred each other to greater and greater efforts: their voices blended with a rami ease. And that is the starting point for casting any *Norma*.

Two North Americans came in for Pollione and Oroveso. Frederick Donaldson, all black leather and studs, turned Pollione into a gaucier, except when Serban wheeled in his two children by Norma (a shade too often) to remind him of parental responsibilities. His burly, clarion tenor was ideal for the part. Oroveso is a dull role, but Harry Dworkhak's imposing boss made it sound better than it is.

A programme photograph suggests that Michael Yeargan drew his inspiration for the sets from Pompeii. He starts with an excessively foggy night in Irminsul. But the mists clear to reveal broken columns and ruined dwellings: Pollione's attempt to build a little Italy among the Druids clearly failed through lack of maintenance. All is beautifully lit.

Julian Smith's handling of the orchestra throughout was as passionate as Serban's view of an opera too often fossilized into a series of enclosed numbers. There are no fossils when Serban is around. With productions around as imaginative and as musically invigorating as *WNO's Norma* and *ENO's Aeneas* British opera is looking in good fettle this spring.

John Higgins

After Cardiff *Norma* visits Birmingham, Liverpool, Oxford, Bristol and Southampton.

Amadigi di Gaula Radio 3

While London's two major opera houses have so far between them managed only a staging of an oratorio and a slightly bizarre though attractive production of *Verres*, the BBC's opera department has begun its anniversary season of Handel operas with a majestic triumph. The audio production for the European Broadcasting Union of *Amadigi* in a period-style performance conducted by Roger Norrington can be heard tonight.

Amadigi, incredibly, has not been given professionally since 1717. The research for this occasion has been executed thoroughly, restoring as exactly as possible Handel's intentions for the first performance at the King's Theatre on May 25, 1715. The version seen then was unique; a cast change necessitated some instant revision on the second night, and subsequent performances included additional material. Some misunderstandings of orchestration perpetrated by the work's recent editors have been cleared up, and Amadigi's aria "Affanami

tormentami" has been restored to Act II, though the ballet music of Act I is still missing.

But the most important thing is that we can now hear this music at all. Its consistently high calibre is quite remarkable, representing the Italianate Handel at his most vividly expressive. Aria after aria exudes an intensity of passion, of torment, anger, evil or love, and the sheer variety that the composer manages to achieve within his conventional *opera seria* plot is staggering, even for him.

The cast is small, just five simply drawn characters, one of whom, Orlando (sung by Stephen Varcoe), takes part only in two brief recitatives and the closing chorus. Amadigi, the male hero, is given by Eirian James in a slightly hard-edged yet rich voice (the production follows Handel's practice of using women's voices where no castrati were available for men's roles). His lover, Oriana, is Patricia Kwella, who relishes this gem of a part. On the side of evil are the enchantress Melissa, sung with sometimes over-gentle spite by Rachel Yakar - but then even some of her music is quite lovely - and the prince Dardanus, intent on

wining Oriana for himself. Anne Mason tempers his arrogant nobility with an almost boyish impetuosity.

Such committed and stylish singing is reflected in the playing of the London Baroque Players, who make a clean and frequently exciting sound, relishing the colours of Handel's economical scoring, while the recitatives are propelled along by the dramatically astute continuo team of Jennifer Warr, Clarke and Celia Harper as much as by the singers.

Stephen Pettitt

Television Pure technology

In the Secret State (BBC 2) had an engaging start, when a renegade civil servant fell from a Whitehall window and managed to "leak" only blood. This was a "secret state" not only because its real powers remained undisclosed but also because it discovered the secrets of others through the bewildering procedures of electronic surveillance. Perhaps it ought to be pointed out that this was drama rather than documentary, although the theme must suggest as much: in recent years computer have become the stuff of melodrama (like Victorian heroines, they are pure but vulnerable to the attentions of evil men), and last night's programme was melodramatic in inspiration if not always in tone. Certainly it appealed to the more obvious emotions of the audience - in this case, a rather sensationalist interest in new technology and a morbid but infinite capacity to be outraged by the attack of "them" upon "us".

But it had its compensations - the plot (taken from a novel by Robert McCrum) was ingenious and there were some remarkable performances, most notably from Matthew March as the tenacious James Quit-

man. As a result, the presentation of Britain as an incipient police state, in which technology and barbarism are fatally combined, was dramatic if not wholly convincing - I suspect that it had about as much relation to the administrative uses of computer technology as *Sweeney Todd* did to the barber's trade. But, of course, one never knows.

The last of Irish Love Stories on Channel 4, *The Eagles and the Trumpets*, was a very charming piece of work in which the peculiarly silken quality of Irish life was evoked. Its period setting, just after the Second World War, might seem to have become the preserve of William Trevor, whose lyrical naturalism has lent it a charmed life. But James Plunkett's story caught a distinctive note of pathos and of loss, in his depiction of a small world where "the eagles and the trumpets" are glimpsed only in quotations from the work of the great poet. And it was excellently acted throughout, with special mention for a perfectly realized performance by Jim Norton as the unhappy commercial traveller.

Peter Ackroyd

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TEXTILES

Company	Price	Ch'ge	Open	Close
last	last	last	last	last
Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday

TOBACCO

Company	Price	Ch'ge	Open	Close
last	last	last	last	last
Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Lessons between the lines of Britain's trade figures

Britain's trade figures, on which the currency markets once monthly waited with bated breath, now pass almost unremarked. A world in which super-surplus Japan (or, for that matter West Germany, which has just turned in a trade surplus of about £15 billion for 1984) can see its currency weaken against the dollar is clearly not one in which trade and exchange rates are simply and positively related. Yet Britain is still by necessity a trading economy, and the newly-released balance of payments figures deserve some inspection.

They do not, on closer investigation, reinforce many of the clichés about the British economy. The trade balance, to be sure, shows a dismal plunge from a surplus of over £2 billion in 1982 to a deficit of over £4 billion in 1984. Some of this deterioration can be put down to the miners' strike, but if we do most of its effects by concentrating on the non-oil balance, the deficit is still depressing. This deteriorated from £2.5 billion in 1982 to a dreadful £11.4 billion last year.

By contrast, our service industries continued to turn in a surplus for Britain. The balance on "invisibles" rose from under £3 billion in 1982 to well over £4 billion in 1984.

Is this confirmation of the pattern, seen by many a cabinet minister, in which the services hold the key to future prosperity and employment? Well, that may be what the jobs figures suggest (the latest show that manufacturing employment was still shrinking at the end of last year, with the service industries accounting for the whole of the net increase in national employment) but it is not quite what our trade figures show. For if we abstract from price changes, the volume indices produced by the Central Statistical Office suggest that our goods exports - excluding oil - were by the end of 1984 about 13 per cent higher than in 1982, while our service "exports" were up less than 7 per cent, and still actually lower than in 1980.

Several caveats are immediately necessary. There was a sudden surge in goods exports in the final quarter of last year, during which export volumes shot up 10 per cent. This does suggest the presence of gremlins in the seasonal adjustment process, since there was a smaller but similar surge in late 1983. However, this is not enough to explain away the good news: a parallel improvement in French and German exports suggest an underlying Europe-wide improvement. In all three economies, goods exports are now running 15-20 per cent higher than at their low point in 1982.

On the services side, it is fair to point out that the calculation of price changes is even more hit-and-miss than for goods exports, and thus "volume" statistics have to be taken with half a tablespoon of salt. (The entire range of statistical information on Britain's service industries is criminally inadequate). It must also be said that the relative position of services has barely changed, while Britain's goods manufacturers have patently lost out to foreign competition: imports of goods other than oil were by the end of 1984 some 25 per cent higher than in 1982, while service "imports" were virtually unchanged.

Nevertheless, the figures provide some useful lessons. The first is that manufacturing industry can still deliver the goods, in favourable circumstances. The end-year spurt narrows the gap between Britain and West Germany, which appeared to be doing so much better out of the American boom than Britain (the value of German exports to the United States rose a spectacular 46 per cent last year). As two

brokers' analysts point out in some cheering recent research, Britain actually appears to be gaining slightly more than the Germans in European markets which is encouraging at a time when the focus of growth should be shifting from the United States to Europe.

But it would be wrong to conclude that manufacturing is all that matters in Britain's external accounts. For the figures demonstrate two other lessons, though the imperfections in the statistics make it hard to tease them out.

The first is that there are service industries that are doing quite as well in international trade. Indeed, that merit more attention in the struggle against protectionist barriers. Since 1982, the figures suggest that while the transport industry has been doing rather badly (with an increasing deficit on sea cargoes barely diminished by an improvement in aviation, the travel trade has been doing remarkably well. Most significant of all, perhaps, is the burgeoning financial services sector, which has managed to increase its surplus by a quarter in two years, to just short of £3 billion.

The second lesson is that part of our successful "invisible" performance stems not from the service sector but from the inflow of interest, profits and dividends on external assets. Our surplus on this account has more than doubled in two years, to over £2 billion. Excluding government transactions, it is closer to £4 billion. And, even so, this understates the economic value of these assets, for it does not reflect capital gains, which have become an increasingly important part of the yield from Britain's foreign assets as portfolio investment has risen after the abolition of exchange controls.

An analysis just published by the Treasury illustrates this pattern of change: Britain's net foreign assets have grown from a bare £12.5 billion, equivalent to 6.5 per cent of national income, in 1979, to £70 billion, or 22 per cent of national income, in 1984. This increase is roughly equal to North Sea oil's £56 billion contribution to the economy over the same period. It is frequently said that our one-off benefit from the North Sea has been shipped abroad to employ other nations' workforces, thus depriving British manufacturing of its investment lifeblood and earning a remarkably poor return.

The Treasury paper provides some interesting answers. First that the capital gains have been remarkable. In sterling terms, of the £57.5 billion increase in our net foreign assets, only £18 billion represents net new investment. The remaining two-thirds represents an increase in the sterling value of those assets. Given their concentration in the land of the rising dollar, this is perhaps not surprising, and - as Mr Paul Volcker keeps trying to remind the markets, what goes up can easily come down. But it does make it a trifle difficult to argue that, so far at least, British pension funds and the like have been making poor use of our money.

Secondly, that while today's foreign assets look large by comparison with the levels in the 1970s, they are in fact tiny by historical standards. In the middle of the 19th century, the value of Britain's net overseas assets was roughly equivalent to 40 per cent of national income, and by the eve of the First World War, they had risen to a peak of close on 180 per cent.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

NEWS IN BRIEF

Milk chief's move 'not sinister'

A former top executive of Unigate last night rejected reports that he left to join rival Northern Foods because of frustration with the milk group.

Mr Christopher Ball, who was managing director of Unigate Dairy Holdings, the main division of the group, said he thought a circular from stockbrokers Laurence, Prust was being unfair to the group.

"There is nothing sinister about my move. I have been invited to take on bigger and wider responsibilities. A lot of good work has gone on at Unigate like to plan, it will surprise many people."

Mr Ball added that his relationship with Mr John Clement, chairman of Unigate, had been good, "although he was surprised and disappointed when I decided to go."

Dock revamp

The London Docklands Development Corporation is hoping to transform the West India Dock on the Isle of Dogs into an American-style specialist shopping and tourist area. It will be modelled on those undertaken by the House Corporation in the old port and harbour areas of Boston and New York.

Sime surges

Sime Darby, the Malaysian-based conglomerate, has turned in profits before tax for the half year to December 31 of M\$123

Bank denial

The Bank of England has denied that it has brought the

City Police Fraud Squad into its investigations of Johnson Matthey Bankers and the events which led to its collapse in October.

Ingall bid

Ingall Industries, the only listed financial director, will today announce that it has received an "unsolicited and wholly unacceptable" bid approach. It is believed the bidder is the Greater Midland Co-operative group.

House of Fraser on course for record £50m profit

By Philip Robinson

Profits of the House of Fraser stores group could top £50 million pre-tax for the year ended last January. The figure would be a record, the third consecutive profit rise and at 28 per cent up on the previous 12 months the largest increase for at least five years.

Most in the stock market are expecting profits of about £48 million, but the group has been given a significant boost before its year end by the influx of American shoppers as the pound crumbled against the dollar.

A substantial part of the profits - more than the traditional 50 per cent - have come from the group's flagship, Harrods. The profits estimate will be one of three key elements contained in the

formal offer document to be released on Friday by the Egyptian Al-Fayed Investment and Trust (UK) company in its formal document offering £615 million for the House of Fraser, a bid agreed with the group's directors.

The document will show that the directors have voted to double the salary of the chairman, Professor Roland Smith, to £100,000 a year. He was appointed in August 1981 for three days a week at a salary of £50,000.

In 1983, when his contract came up for renewal there was a suggestion that he should become full-time chairman and chief executive, and have a salary increase to £80,000 a year.

However, it is understood that Professor Smith's executive commitments outside Fraser may have needed to go, and his contract was renewed under the former salary.

The third key will be the revaluation of Fraser assets which the surveyors Conrad Kitblat has been conducting. James Capel estimates that these are likely to show net assets value of £75p a share, or about £375 million.

Capel's say Harrods could easily be valued at 25 times earnings which produces a figure of £470 million, leaving the rump of the 100 stores worth £145 million. Even on a conservative basis, the brokers say these could be valued at £200 million, giving a total

value of £670 million, or 437p a share.

Lonrho, Fraser's adversary for seven years, has said it will bid if given the chance. A Monopolies and Mergers Commission report ruled last week that a takeover of Fraser by Lonrho would not operate against the public interest.

Lonrho cannot move until government restrictions on its share buying of Fraser, imposed in 1981, are lifted. Fierce lobbying will start today by all three sides. The Al-Fayed family, and Fraser will argue that the agreed takeover should not be referred.

Lonrho, due to see the Department of Trade and Industry tomorrow, will contend that it should.

Letter, page 13

Base rate cut of 1½ points forecast

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Good money supply figures and a confidence boosting Budget could bring interest rates down by 1½ points, Lloyds Bank says in its international financial outlook published today.

A base rate cut on or about March 19, Budget Day, could head off the threatened 1 per cent rise in mortgage rates when the building societies next meet on March 21.

According to Lloyds Bank: "The release of very good money supply figures for banking February on March 12, probably showing a small decline in M3, could be sufficient to trigger a cut in bank base rates. If not, interest rates are likely to come down as a result of confidence created by the Budget on March 19."

Such a Budget, says Lloyds Bank, would be one in which the Chancellor stuck to his £7 billion public sector borrowing requirement target for 1985/86, and continued with his programme of tax reform.

The likely reduction in base rates is from 14 to 12½ per cent, Lloyds Bank says. The prediction of an early reduction in base rates comes when most City economists have grown cautious about the prospect of lower rates, mainly because of sterling's continuing problems.

Simon & Coates, the stockbroker, says in a circular:

Stockbrokers' Money Supply Forecasts Change in sterling M3, banking February (per cent)	
Williams de Broe Hill	+0.4
James Capel	+0.25
Laurie Milbank	+0.25
Phillips & Drew	0 to +0.5
Rowe & Pim	+0.2
de Zoete & Bevan	0
Laing & Cruckshank	0
W Greenwell	-0.3
L Messel	-0.5

published today that: "Our forecast suggests that short-term interest rates in Britain will need to stay in the emergency range of 12 to 14 per cent for at least three months in order to offer some protection

Last week's movements on the foreign exchanges provided us reassurance that the dollar's strong rise is over. The pound fell as low as \$21.0495 on Wednesday, before dollar profit-taking set in and sterling gained two cents. Even so, the pound was strong against the European currencies and the sterling index recorded a small net gain on the week.

Tuesday's money supply figures are expected to show a fall or, at worst, a very small rise. This reflects a healthy level of official funding during the month. A good figure for sterling M3, if accompanied by evidence that bank lending has responded to the 4½ point rise in interest rates during January, could provide a better environment for base rate reductions.

There has been a base rate cut on about Budget day in each of the past four years. The big question mark this year concerns oil prices. If seasonal weakness of oil prices

Enterprise silent on merger speculation

By Cliff Feltham

An oil company chief last night declined to comment on speculation that a near £600 million merger of two North Sea oil companies was on the way.

Mr Graham Hearne, chief executive of the newly-privatized Enterprise Oil, said he was constantly looking for new opportunities but would not say whether he had picked up a shareholding in Tricentral as a platform for a full-scale bid.

He said: "Every time there is a rumour in the stock market we find ourselves attached to it and the view we are taking is that we are not going to comment at all. But we are looking at deals the whole time - it is a constant process and we are vigilant about every opportunity that comes along."

According to some reports, Enterprise has acquired a 4 per cent stake in Tricentral as well as a sizeable chunk of the loan stock.

Enterprise, which was set up to take over the North Sea oil assets of British Gas, is at present valued at about £400m. It has made it clear it is keen to develop overseas interests.

Tricentral, valued at about £185 million, has been the subject of bid speculation for



Graham Hearne: looking for new opportunities

some time. It has a number of projects abroad, notably in Australia and Canada.

If Mr Hearne is eyeing up Tricentral he clearly has a good idea of its value. He was chief executive at the group for two years until 1983 when he left to join the British oil company, Carless Capel.

During his time at Tricentral he was largely responsible for building up its interests in the United States. But these did not prove entirely successful and a large part of the assets were sold last year at a considerable loss.

Gerrard & National to expand overseas arm

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Gerrard & National, the largest of the discount houses, is recruiting a six-man securities team to expand its international business. Mr David Baxendale and five colleagues are joining Gerrard on May 1 from Sarasin International Securities, the London subsidiary of a privately-owned Swiss Bank.

Gerrard has been steadily building up its international business over 15 years, particularly in the domestic, US fixed interest market as well as the Eurodollar and European markets. But the new team will take it beyond just dealing in money market securities into the medium term market in both

Eurobonds and foreign corporate and government issues. Mr Thomas Fellowes, one of two managing directors on the international side, said a more sophisticated and broader coverage would result in improved service to customers and increased profitability.

The new team will be running a broking operation at Gerrard and Mr Fellowes said they would not be market making or taking large positions, but Gerrard could eventually move into issuing corporate debt such as Eurosterling issues for corporate customers in Britain UK and this in turn could take it into market making in medium-term instruments.

Sears tipped to bid for Foster Bros.

A rival bid for Foster Brothers, the menswear retailing group fighting off a £90 million offer from the Ward White shoe business, could soon be on the way.

Sears Holdings, the Selfridges department store group, is being strongly tipped to weigh in with an offer worth between 220p and 230p a share against the 198p of the Ward White bid. The shares added 10 to 20p before the weekend.

Sears' chief executive, Mr Geoffrey Maitland-Smith, has admitted he is looking closely at the situation. Foster's chain of 650 shops would fit in well with Sears' high street outlets, taking in shoes, department stores and jewellery, which should avoid any clash with the Monopolies Commission.

Sears is one of a number of big British retailers who have undoubtedly been observing the Fosters battle.

US NOTEBOOK

Bond rally relieves the gloom

A rally in bonds on Friday changed the tone of the financial markets, relieving much of the gloom that had swept over them last month.

Two fears lay behind the fall in bonds which took the March Treasury-bond contract from its peak of 74 in the first week of February to 68 20/32 last Thursday.

These were, first, the knowledge that money had been growing at 13 per cent a year since October and that this was not only unsustainable but was likely to trigger a restrictive policy by the Federal Reserve Board.

Second, there was the fear that the economy was growing "too fast" and that this again would bring about a sudden shift to restriction by the central bank.

As self-reinforcing rumour and worry spread rapidly through the markets in February bonds prices slumped. The Treasury bill futures 2015 long Treasury bond which was issued only a few weeks ago fell to 94 20/32 by last Thursday.

The New York Stock Exchange futures index - the NYFYE - ceased the climb that had taken it from 96 in the first week of January to a peak of 108 in the second week of February (March contract). By Friday it had fallen to 104.15. At the same time, the stock market cash index stopped rising.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Fed, dropped hints that the Fed would not allow money growth to continue at recent rates as money M1 rose 13 per cent a year between October and February.

Last month the bond markets struggled to make a clear judgement about the trend of events and about how they would affect inflation.

The action last week seemed to indicate that the bond market was almost overwhelmed by fear of inflation and of excessively vigorous economic growth (the revised 4.9 per cent annual growth rate for real gross national product in the fourth quarter was an important spur to the growing uncertainty).

By Thursday, cash bonds and bond futures were doing badly.

To cap all the bad news, the money supply figure released on Thursday night - a \$3.6 billion rise in money M1 - seemed calculated to make a bad situation worse as the increase was twice as much as expected.

Yet no sooner had this seemingly bad number been announced than the cash bonds lifted themselves wearily off the floor and registered a slight rise in price. On Friday, the whole market changed.

Upon the announcement that unemployment in February dropped only 0.1 per cent to 7.2 per cent and that employment had registered a particularly weak rise, cash bonds began to boom, as did the futures.

The bellwether long bond rose a stunning 1½% by Friday's close - almost two full points in one trading session. The March Treasury-Bond futures rose 1½% to 74½.

The gold market had been signalling disinflation right through February but the bond market did not seem to notice.

Maxwell Newton

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- Directors had luncheons in a private dining room.
- Dealer salesforces were paid incentives for on-target performance.
- Senior managers had the opportunity to buy their cars at attractive rates.
- Part-time and self-employed workers were paid out of petty cash.

Last year the Inland Revenue said "...our performance for the year to 31 October 1983 was much improved. More than 61,000 (PAYE) inspections were carried out... 20,000 cases yielded, with penalties, £43.8 million."

If your company has not yet received a visit from an Inland Revenue PAYE audit unit, it may be only a question of time before you do, and they discover an irregularity.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
FT Ind Ord	988.1(+13.1)
FT-A All Share	619.26(+13.44)
FT Govt Securities	80.30(+0.13)
FT-SE 100	1288.9(+37.8)
Bergsme: 28.546	
Datastream USM	
New York	111.15(+2.27)
Dow Jones	1269.66(-29.7)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,347.54(-64.61)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1395.27(-5.88)
Amsterdam	205.6(+5.1)
Sydney: AO	788.1(-2.2)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1203.1(+6.7)
Brussels:	
General	286.53(+43.74)
Paris: CAC	208.3(+3.3)
Zurich:	
SKA General	341.20(+4.8)
INTEREST RATES	
London:	
Bank Base: 14%	
3-month Interbank	14-13½%
CURRENCIES	
(Friday's close and change on week)	
London:	
£: \$1.0693 (-0.0022)	
DM: 3.6282 (+0.0282)	
SwFr: 3.0870 (+0.006)	
FFr: 11.0750 (+0.065)	
Yen: 279.40 (-0.6)	
Index: 71.1 (-0.3)	
New York:	
£: \$1.0722	
DM: 3.3557 (+1.1)	
Index: 155.4 (+1.1)	
ECU: 81.2683	
SCR: 80.895737	
BOARD MEETINGS	
TODAY:	Intermar: Land Investors, London Ship Properties, Microfilm Reprographics, Parker Knolls, United M. Ellison, Grog - Highlands & Lowlands, Law & Bonar, Plomom, TR
TOMORROW:	Intermar: Amber Day Holdings, Refiga Group, Finale Balfour Eves, Matthew Clark & Sons, W. Collins, De Beers Consolidated Mines, Edinburgh Fund Managers, Hawat Whiting Holdings, Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, Kleinwort Benson London, Pentos, Tavenor Rutledge, Yorkshire Chemicals.
WEDNESDAY:	Intermar: Bayan Group, Braville Europe, Fletcher Challenge, Lawrie, Victor Products, Westley Hughes, Fittie Basswood, J. Fisher & Sons, GKN, J. Hewitt & Son (Fenton), Invergordon Distillers, Laws Howard-Spink, Campbell-Ewald, Sandvik AB, Ullman, United Biscuits, United States Tobacco Corp.
THURSDAY:	Intermar: Coronation Syndicate, Harrisons Malaysian Plantations, J. Jarvis & Sons, A. & J. Mucklow Group, Twestford, United Canteens, Poodle Appleyard Group, Camilla Investments, T. Clarke, Law Debenture Corporation, Needlers, New London Properties, Rowntree Mackintosh, Royal Dutch Petroleum, Sedgwick Group, Sharp & Fisher, Shell Transport & Trading, TI Group, Transport Development Group.
FRIDAY:	Intermar: Celio Haven, Mitchell Cote, Pico Holdings, Waring & Gilroy, Finlay House Property of London, Macalain-Gervier, Republic Holding SA Luxembourg.

CRICKET

India prosper far from home again

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

India completed a remarkable double here yesterday when they added the Benson and Hedges "World Championship of Cricket" to the Prudential World Cup which they won at Lord's in 1983. On both occasions they started as rank outsiders. They won yesterday's final by eight wickets, scoring 177 for two in reply to Pakistan's 176 for nine.

The match watched, via satellite, by sundry millions on the sub-continent, attracted a best crowd of 35,296 to the Melbourne ground, many of them looking no doubt for something different from the sight of Australia's batsmen having their sunnies knocked over and the West Indians riding rough shod. What, in fact, they saw was India completing a clear round, winning the final no less conclusively and attractively than they had in their four previous matches.

But how have they done, when England beat them by four matches to one in their recent one-day series in India? Yesterday's cricket provided the answer except for one hidden factor, namely that they were not being harassed by their own supporters. On another very slow pitch, their medium-paced bowlers bowled the required length and line, Sivaramakrishnan and Shastri again confounded those who think there is no place for spin in one-day cricket. Gavaskar marshalled his forces shrewdly, and when India needed Shastri and Sivaramakrishnan, they were there just as Hutton and Barnett might have done.

Srikkanth was in sparkling form, and when he threatened to over-spark, Shastri calmed him down. They have been the outstanding opening partnership of the tournament, making six fifties between them and sharing two century stands. By the time Srikkanth was out in the 20th over, India were more than halfway there.

After Pakistan had won the toss and batted, Mohsin was out in the fifth over of the match, Muddassar and Qasim Omar in the eleventh and Rameez in the twelfth as well. Caught at the wicket for nought, the speed with which this instant was played on the large electronic scoreboard, once and not again, suggested they were probably right.

Mohsin and Rameez were both caught at square leg, Rameez low down and very well. Muddassar chasing an out-swing from Kapil Dev, was caught at the wicket, and Qasim Omar was yorked. That was 33 for four. Muddassar and Imran stopped the rot, adding 68 for the fifth wicket, and at least making something of a game of it.

Such was their caution that the 100 had only just gone off the last ball of the 33rd over, when Imran was run out. This coincided with the advent of Siva, who at once unsettled Imran. Looking for a quick single to square cover point, Imran was sent back by Muddassar and thrown out by a brilliant return from Gavaskar. To some extent, Siva could be credited with Imran's

PAKISTAN
Muddassar Nizar, C. Ashrafuddin, B. Kapil Dev 14
Mohsin Khan, C. Ashrafuddin, B. Kapil Dev 5
Rameez Raza, C. Ashrafuddin, B. Kapil Dev 5
Qasim Omar, B. Kapil Dev 5
Javed Miandad, C. Ashrafuddin, B. Kapil Dev 48
Sivaramakrishnan, C. Ashrafuddin, B. Kapil Dev 48
Imran Khan, run out 36
Sultan Malik, C. Ashrafuddin, B. Kapil Dev 35
Wahid Raza, not out 20
Tahir Naqvi, C. Ashrafuddin, B. Kapil Dev 10
"Arafat, C. Ashrafuddin 7
Azeem Hameed, not out 0
Extras (b 7, lb 8, w 1, n 2) 18
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs) 176

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-29, 3-39, 4-33, 5-101, 6-137, 7-181, 8-182, 9-184, 10-189, 11-190, 12-191, 13-192, 14-193, 15-194, 16-195, 17-196, 18-197, 19-198, 20-199, 21-200, 22-201, 23-202, 24-203, 25-204, 26-205, 27-206, 28-207, 29-208, 30-209, 31-210, 32-211, 33-212, 34-213, 35-214, 36-215, 37-216, 38-217, 39-218, 40-219, 41-220, 42-221, 43-222, 44-223, 45-224, 46-225, 47-226, 48-227, 49-228, 50-229, 51-230, 52-231, 53-232, 54-233, 55-234, 56-235, 57-236, 58-237, 59-238, 60-239, 61-240, 62-241, 63-242, 64-243, 65-244, 66-245, 67-246, 68-247, 69-248, 70-249, 71-250, 72-251, 73-252, 74-253, 75-254, 76-255, 77-256, 78-257, 79-258, 80-259, 81-260, 82-261, 83-262, 84-263, 85-264, 86-265, 87-266, 88-267, 89-268, 90-269, 91-270, 92-271, 93-272, 94-273, 95-274, 96-275, 97-276, 98-277, 99-278, 100-279, 101-280, 102-281, 103-282, 104-283, 105-284, 106-285, 107-286, 108-287, 109-288, 110-289, 111-290, 112-291, 113-292, 114-293, 115-294, 116-295, 117-296, 118-297, 119-298, 120-299, 121-300, 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Bath deal with everything Sale have to offer

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Sale plans and Bath's forwards
Bath.....15
Sale.....25

Today's draw for the semi-finals of the John Player Special Cup offers the possibility of another West Country final. Bath and Gloucester are kept apart. London and the Midlands are also represented as Saturday's quarter-finals indicated not for the first time the capacity of Northern clubs to go so far and no farther in the competition.

Sale, top of the merit table lost at Brooklands by a goal, a try, four penalty goals and a dropped goal to five penalties, a performance suggesting that percentage-based merit tables cast untidily long shadows. Bath noted what Sale had to offer in the opening quarter, made a few technical adjustments after the loss of Halliday and thereafter never looked in danger of losing.

Sale also lost a player, the promising No. 10, but he was replaced by another back row man and his absence did nothing to change the course or nature of the game. The loss of Halliday (which he hopes will be mended in a fortnight's time) came at a time when Bath were hitting at an expansive style. The introduction of Stanley, a scrum half, to the centre stifled

such plans and Bath's forwards took over. If there was a turning point in the game it came as early as the 20th minute when Thomas launched himself for an interception which, given his known speed, would have earned a try at the Bath line 70 metres away. But he knuckled out, Bath won the scrum and Hill slipped the blind side cover to send Simpson to the corner.

That alone will serve as a lesson for a young and, in many areas, inexperienced Sale side, that the difference between triumph and disaster can be no more than a few inches. Had Bath, warmed by the massive authority Martin is currently showing at full back, not been comparatively careless in their finding of touch and in the concession of penalties, the margin of defeat would have been greater.

After the first quarter when the bustling Gaffney and Tipping knocked Bath out of their stride, Sale could consolidate no area from which to launch their backs though on the evidence available neither centre is quick nor accurate in passing. Such possession as the forwards did win frequently proved an embarrassment for Fittin. From the first scrum the Bath tight forwards held the upper hand and they got away with considerable obstruction at the lineouts.

In such conditions Hall, Simpson and Spurrell thrived and Hill with them, though I doubt if the scrum half impressed by disputing the position of the lineout and conceding a penalty from which Sale worked Jenion's second successful penalty. If there were few pickings for the three-quarters, Trick demonstrated another side of his endearing character by taking over the goal-kicking from Palmer, whose timing was awry, and scoring three penalties.

Bath led 10-3 at the interval and scored the second try of the game when Hill made best use of a heel against the head by slopping to the blind side and feeding Trick on a scissors. Sale, to their credit, allowed no more liberties with their back row but it was clear that if they were to win Bath would have to give to them and the holders, unlike their predecessors, Leicester, are not that generous.

SCORERS: Sale: Penalties: Jenion (5). Bath: Try: Simpson; Trick; Conversion: Palmer. Referee: Trick (3). Palmer Dropped goal: Horton.

SALE: G. Jenion; H. Thomas; P. Standfield; A. Bond; J. Dyson; A. Egan; H. Fittin; M. Higgins; A. Simpson; M. Gaffney; C. Tipping; C. Shaw; J. McKee; M. Gaffney; M. Kenrick (rep. P. Sherrett).

BATH: C. Martin; D. Trick; J. Palmer; S. Halliday (rep. C. Stanley); B. Trevisas; J. Horton; R. Hill; G. Chilcott; G. Bess; R. Lee; S. Stanley; M. Redman; N. Gaymond; J. Hill; P. Simpson.

Referee: A. Rees (Hampshire).

WEEKEND RESULTS

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP Division 1

Boroughmuir	15	13
Glasgow	15	13
Edinburgh	15	13
Perth	15	13
Stirling	15	13
West of Scotland	15	13

JOHN PLAYER CUP Fifth Round

Coventry	10	10
Leicester	10	10
London Welsh	10	10
Waterloo	10	10

CLUB MATCHES

Fifth Round		
10	Leicester	22
11	Corsewall	22
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to the Education & Membership Officer
A secretary, with good typing and shorthand, is required for varied and interesting work in the Education & Membership Department of this professional society in SW1.
Salary not less than £2,500 + L.V.s. 4 weeks' leave.

Applications to:
The Education & Membership Officer,
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£7,500 +

International Cosmetic Co. seeks outgoing administrator with knowledge of the cosmetics industry and a sense of humour to assist the marketing manager, arrange and attend conferences, visit stores and run busy dept in his absence. Lots of involvement for right person call Jenny Bennett on

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PUBLISHING IN COVENT GARDEN

Are you an experienced Secretary? Do you have good secretarial skills including WP knowledge? Are you a team player with a strong sense of humour? If so, and you would like a chance to enter the exciting world of publishing and be able to purchase a variety of books at a discount, then you are the person we are looking for. Salary £12,000 per annum. Call 01-437 9475/7445

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Efficient, reliable, adaptable Secretary/PA, 25-35, with excellent skills, 110/60, available, unimpeachable temperament and organizational brilliance. Travel and/or PR experience useful. Small, friendly, non-smoking office. Salary £7,500-8,000, 4 weeks holiday - post travel perks. No agencies.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS
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University of Reading
Appointments
PROFESSORSHIP OF LAW
Applications are invited for a Professorship of Law in the Department of Law. The appointment is to be made from a date to be agreed with the successful candidate.
Applicants should have an established reputation in any of the central areas of legal studies.
Further information may be obtained from the Registrar, Room 212, Whiteknights House, The University, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH.
The closing date for applications is 29 April 1985.

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
Chair in Statistics
Applications are invited for the above Chair in the Department of Mathematics. Applicants should have a PhD in Mathematics or Statistics together with extensive basic research and teaching experience in the latter. There is no preferred area of specialization; candidates would be expected to have a strong interest in furthering the industrial collaboration of the statistical group.
Further particulars are available from the Academic Registrar (AA), University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5XH, or telephone Guildford (0438) 571281, Ext 653. Applications from men and women, in the form of a curriculum vitae, including the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to the same address by 12 April 1985, quoting reference 363/7.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering
LECTURER
A new post is available for appointment of a Lecturer to assist with general teaching work of the Department but whose research interests are preferably in one of the fields of CONTROL SYSTEMS, PATTERN RECOGNITION or VLSI CIRCUIT DESIGN AND APPLICATION.
Salary will be within the range of £7,520 to £14,925 on the Lecturers' scale.
Further particulars may be obtained from the Academic Personnel Office, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, where applications (3 copies), giving the names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged on or before 5th April 1985.
In reply please quote Ref No 5433E

University of Bristol
"NEW BLOOD" LECTURESHIPS
Applications are invited for the following LECTURESHIPS from 1st October 1985, which have been established under the "New Blood" Scheme to encourage the appointment of new research staff in the Department of Mathematics. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of Mathematics. The Department has a strong research tradition in the field of Mathematics and is particularly interested in research in the following areas:
1. Applied Mathematics (ref. J21). Applications are sought to fund the research of our group in fluid dynamics, in particular, specialists in nonlinear mathematics, water waves, geophysical fluid dynamics or computational fluid dynamics are welcome to apply.
2. Theory of Computation (ref. J22). An appointment will be made in the general area of the applications of mathematical logic to computer science. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of computer science. A mathematical logic or theoretical computer science will also be considered. A good research record is essential and the successful candidate will be expected to give some lectures in our M.Sc. course in Mathematical Logic and Theory of Computation.
3. Department of Medicine (CARE OF THE ELDERLY) (ref. TL1). Applications are invited from medically or non-medically qualified candidates to work on the neurochemistry of ageing and dementia. The successful candidate will work principally on Alzheimer's disease and will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of neurochemistry. This will complement the existing clinical neuro-pathological and neuro-chemical research. Prospective candidates are invited to contact Professor Wilcock, Department of Medicine (Care of the Elderly) at Princes Hospital (Tel: Bristol 666666).

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (ref. JF)
Applications are invited from veterinary graduates for the post of Lecturer in Farm Animal Welfare.
The successful candidate will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of farm animal welfare. The Department has a strong research tradition in the field of farm animal welfare and is particularly interested in research in the following areas:
1. Applied Mathematics (ref. J21). Applications are sought to fund the research of our group in fluid dynamics, in particular, specialists in nonlinear mathematics, water waves, geophysical fluid dynamics or computational fluid dynamics are welcome to apply.
2. Theory of Computation (ref. J22). An appointment will be made in the general area of the applications of mathematical logic to computer science. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of computer science. A mathematical logic or theoretical computer science will also be considered. A good research record is essential and the successful candidate will be expected to give some lectures in our M.Sc. course in Mathematical Logic and Theory of Computation.
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DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (ref. JPB)
A young Electronic Engineer is required to work with research teams developing distributed parameter instrumentation systems. The Department has a strong research tradition in the field of instrumentation systems and is particularly interested in research in the following areas:
1. Applied Mathematics (ref. J21). Applications are sought to fund the research of our group in fluid dynamics, in particular, specialists in nonlinear mathematics, water waves, geophysical fluid dynamics or computational fluid dynamics are welcome to apply.
2. Theory of Computation (ref. J22). An appointment will be made in the general area of the applications of mathematical logic to computer science. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of computer science. A mathematical logic or theoretical computer science will also be considered. A good research record is essential and the successful candidate will be expected to give some lectures in our M.Sc. course in Mathematical Logic and Theory of Computation.
3. Department of Medicine (CARE OF THE ELDERLY) (ref. TL1). Applications are invited from medically or non-medically qualified candidates to work on the neurochemistry of ageing and dementia. The successful candidate will work principally on Alzheimer's disease and will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of neurochemistry. This will complement the existing clinical neuro-pathological and neuro-chemical research. Prospective candidates are invited to contact Professor Wilcock, Department of Medicine (Care of the Elderly) at Princes Hospital (Tel: Bristol 666666).

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
1. Applied Mathematics (ref. J21). Applications are sought to fund the research of our group in fluid dynamics, in particular, specialists in nonlinear mathematics, water waves, geophysical fluid dynamics or computational fluid dynamics are welcome to apply.
2. Theory of Computation (ref. J22). An appointment will be made in the general area of the applications of mathematical logic to computer science. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of computer science. A mathematical logic or theoretical computer science will also be considered. A good research record is essential and the successful candidate will be expected to give some lectures in our M.Sc. course in Mathematical Logic and Theory of Computation.
3. Department of Medicine (CARE OF THE ELDERLY) (ref. TL1). Applications are invited from medically or non-medically qualified candidates to work on the neurochemistry of ageing and dementia. The successful candidate will work principally on Alzheimer's disease and will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of neurochemistry. This will complement the existing clinical neuro-pathological and neuro-chemical research. Prospective candidates are invited to contact Professor Wilcock, Department of Medicine (Care of the Elderly) at Princes Hospital (Tel: Bristol 666666).

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE (CARE OF THE ELDERLY) (ref. TL1)
Applications are invited from medically or non-medically qualified candidates to work on the neurochemistry of ageing and dementia. The successful candidate will work principally on Alzheimer's disease and will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of neurochemistry. This will complement the existing clinical neuro-pathological and neuro-chemical research. Prospective candidates are invited to contact Professor Wilcock, Department of Medicine (Care of the Elderly) at Princes Hospital (Tel: Bristol 666666).

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY (ref. J23)
An appointment will be made in the field of Vertebrate Reproductive Endocrinology.
The salary will be on the scale £7,520-£14,925 per annum (ref. J23). The Department has a strong research tradition in the field of reproductive endocrinology and is particularly interested in research in the following areas:
1. Applied Mathematics (ref. J21). Applications are sought to fund the research of our group in fluid dynamics, in particular, specialists in nonlinear mathematics, water waves, geophysical fluid dynamics or computational fluid dynamics are welcome to apply.
2. Theory of Computation (ref. J22). An appointment will be made in the general area of the applications of mathematical logic to computer science. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of computer science. A mathematical logic or theoretical computer science will also be considered. A good research record is essential and the successful candidate will be expected to give some lectures in our M.Sc. course in Mathematical Logic and Theory of Computation.
3. Department of Medicine (CARE OF THE ELDERLY) (ref. TL1). Applications are invited from medically or non-medically qualified candidates to work on the neurochemistry of ageing and dementia. The successful candidate will work principally on Alzheimer's disease and will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of neurochemistry. This will complement the existing clinical neuro-pathological and neuro-chemical research. Prospective candidates are invited to contact Professor Wilcock, Department of Medicine (Care of the Elderly) at Princes Hospital (Tel: Bristol 666666).

The University of Sheffield
MRC/ESRC SOCIAL AND APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY UNIT
Applications are invited for two vacancies within the Unit's expanding programme of research into psychological and organisational aspects of information technology.
POST 1 is for a person with experience in cognitive or human factors aspects of human information processing, to work with Dr. D. R. J. Houghton.
POST 2 is for a person with experience in occupational or social psychology, to work with Dr. T. D. Wall and C. W. Clegg.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
SPEAKER'S LECTURESHIP IN BIBLICAL STUDIES
The electors propose to appoint a lecturer to hold office for three years from 1 October 1985. The lecturer is required to deliver not less than two lectures annually on a subject concerned with biblical studies. The stipend is the net income of £1,500 a year. Eight copies of the curriculum vitae, including a statement of the subject of the lectures proposed, should be sent to the Registrar, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD by 30 July 1985, from whom further details may be obtained.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
LECTURESHIP IN STATISTICS
The salary will be on the scale £7,520-£14,925 per annum (ref. J23). The Department has a strong research tradition in the field of statistics and is particularly interested in research in the following areas:
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HORIZONS
The Times guide to career choice

Snowed in - with job openings
How to succeed on the slopes. Corinne Julius reports

If you want a job on skis rather than a career, you have to plan ahead. Companies offering employment on the slopes are already looking for next season's staff. The job of chalet girl is the best-known winter-sport employment and though Club Mark Warner employed one chalet boy last season, most chalet jobs were until recently for girls. Today's operators offer holidays in chalets, as well as hotels, clubs or jumbo chalets. Virtually all the staffing is done from Britain.
Virtually none of the operators advertise for staff, so it is up to you to approach them for an application form. The competition is fierce. At least a third of all applicants fail to fulfil the operators' minimum requirements.
The most senior available positions, such as hotel or club manager, offer the greatest responsibility and the least skiing. Managers have to cope with all aspects of hotel management, from catering to client contact and money management to machine maintenance, so they tend to be professional, with catering or hotel qualifications or experience. They will know the local language and be at least 25 years old. Chefs and assistant chefs tend to be professionals and over 21. Cooks, if they arrange their schedules properly, can do a fair amount of skiing.
Company resort reps are responsible for the welfare of clients and staff in the resort. They meet each planeload of clients, introduce them to the resort, supervise staff and cope with broken legs and emergencies. Reps are usually about 25 and over, need to be fluent in the resort language, unfappable and get on with people. Because much of their work is at weekends and in the evenings, they can do a lot of skiing.
Ski guides who are not ski teachers ski with clients and help with social life. Guides need to be good skiers (some companies insist on the British Association of Ski Instructors grade 3 qualification), with organizational experience. Guides are usually 23 years of age and have a smattering of the local language. Though guides do a lot of skiing, they are skiing at the level of the worst in their party and rarely on their own.
The hotels and jumbo chalets employ bar staff, usually aged at least 20, with some experience. There are also openings for housekeepers and night-watchmen. All employ what are euphemistically called helpers or club chalet girls - ie, skivvies. These girls, along with laundry girls, usually have to be 20-plus and to have had some experience of working with people. They rarely cook and mostly clean and serve, but they ski.
The jumbo chalets and clubs also employ *plongeurs* to wash up and do odd jobs. *Plongeurs* fall in the same category as MBOs (maintenance and building officers). These jobs tend to go to male graduates taking time out. They involve heavy, snow-clearing, washing-up, unblocking drains, and serving in the bar and are much sought after. In large chalets or hotels they may be described as kitchen porters but MBOs are often employed by companies with small chalets to help the chalet girls do the heavy work.
Last year more than 2,000 chalet girls got work in the snow resorts. Companies prefer girls to be over 22, but will settle for 19 and over. They are expected to have cooking qualifications. They run the chalets, cooking, hosting, cleaning, and balancing the books. They are supposed to know a little of the language, but do not have to be able to ski. Ideally, they should have stamina, patience, humour and be good at dealing with clients and the company's face to the client, and the resort's general manager of Club Mark Warner, Bryan Greene, speaks for most companies in saying: "We try to employ girls with backgrounds similar to those of our clients". Organized chalet girls get five hours of skiing a day and a lot of social life.
All the jobs offered are on a fixed contract for the whole season from December to April, and you are expected to stick it out. All the companies employ their staff in the UK, thus getting around employment legislation and work-permit problems. They offer board and lodging, transport to and from the resort, ski pass, boots and ski hire and insurance plus a weekly wage paid in local currency. The pay runs from £20 a week for chalet girls up to £150 a week for managers.
Resort jobs are not glamorous. As Trefine Maynard of Ski-Vai puts it: "The most important aspects of any resort job are tolerance, willingness to work hard, a love of humanity in all its forms and a sense of humour. Resort workers must all be ready and willing to help out in any field if needed, from gutting fish that arrive only half an hour before they are due to be served to the guests to stemming floods and improving plumbing repairs, to breaking into clients' rooms when they have locked the doors with the only keys inside, to advising on the best treatment for bunions in ski boots."
Most companies require you to complete an application form. All the chalet girls have to offer specimen menus. If you are called to interview any time from May onwards, you have made the first hurdle. Chalet

girls should expect to be grilled on their 20 ways to cook chicken and are often expected to cook specimen meals. Most companies have a company manual plus a briefing day - which can prove the undoing of aspiring chalet girls. Guides, also, go on courses to learn first aid and mountain security.
It is worth getting your application in early and if you are unsuccessful, trying again towards the end of the summer because there are always a few drop-outs throughout the season. It is particularly useful doing the rounds in January as by then some of the resort staff may have broken a leg and that might be your lucky break.
If you can ski reasonably well you might make it as a rep for the British Ski Club. These reps are virtual ambassadors for the clubs in the resorts. They ski with members, but do not teach or act as guides. Reps are not paid but get accommodation and board paid for by the resort, a free lift pass and minor expenses. You have to apply in the summer and if selected, have a two-week training course in Tignes in December. The great advantage is that the club reps need work for only three weeks (although they can do more) and can remain on the club's register to do repeat seasons.
If you are a top skier, wanting to teach, you can do a British Association of Ski Instructors course. Once qualified, you should be able to get a job easily because many resorts like to have an English-speaking teacher who understands the way the British tick. Hazel Bain of the association says there are between 300 and 500 British ski instructors and she knows of none who want to work who cannot get a job.
If you don't get a job, but still want to get out to the slopes, you could try going it alone. However the competition is fierce. The best bet is to go to resorts early - even in mid summer, certainly by November. You must find accommodation, be ready to spend money to find a job and be prepared to do anything.
It is worth remembering that resort opportunities are not just limited to the Alps. The Scottish Cairngorms ski season runs from December to May and there are openings for lift operators, waitresses, ticket sellers and shop assistants, usually at reasonable rates of pay with two days off a week to ski.
For a factsheet on helpful organizations, send an SAE to: Career Horizons (SkiSlope), Special Reports, The Times, London WC1 8EZ.
Next week: Janis Mackay on a life of travel.

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1. Applied Mathematics (ref. J21). Applications are sought to fund the research of our group in fluid dynamics, in particular, specialists in nonlinear mathematics, water waves, geophysical fluid dynamics or computational fluid dynamics are welcome to apply.
2. Theory of Computation (ref. J22). An appointment will be made in the general area of the applications of mathematical logic to computer science. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of computer science. A mathematical logic or theoretical computer science will also be considered. A good research record is essential and the successful candidate will be expected to give some lectures in our M.Sc. course in Mathematical Logic and Theory of Computation.
3. Department of Medicine (CARE OF THE ELDERLY) (ref. TL1). Applications are invited from medically or non-medically qualified candidates to work on the neurochemistry of ageing and dementia. The successful candidate will work principally on Alzheimer's disease and will be expected to develop and supervise research in the field of neurochemistry. This will complement the existing clinical neuro-pathological and neuro-chemical research. Prospective candidates are invited to contact Professor Wilcock, Department of Medicine (Care of the Elderly) at Princes Hospital (Tel: Bristol 666666).

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